Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

In a CNMI election, no one can tell how you voted. Do you believe that to be true or false?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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WORLD

Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Cuba's Fidel Castro meet.

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YOUNGSTYLE

For kids adopted from China, Lunar New Year makes them mini-ambassadors.

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LIFE & STYLE

Katy Perry and Harry Potter are in the popular clique now.

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Higher fines eyed for speeding

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» 50-pct. hike in speed limit violation fines
» Transfer some BMV functions to Rev&Tax eyed

To promote road safety while generating more revenue for the Department of Public Safety, a lawmaker is proposing to increase the maximum fines for speed limit violations by 50 percent—from $100 to $150 for a first offense. The proposed fine for a second offense is $375, from the current $250.

See HIGHER on Page 4

US ringleader of ID theft admits guilt

By SAMANTHA HENRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)—The leader of an identity theft and fraud ring run by Korean immigrants has pleaded guilty in a scheme that federal authorities said operated as a veritable "crime superstore" that reached from northern New Jersey to U.S. territories in the Pacific.

Sang-Hyun "Jimmy" Park admitted in federal court in Newark on Monday that he had helped people fraudulently obtain credit cards, bank accounts and loans using illegally obtained Social Security numbers in a scheme that federal authorities say defrauded various credit card companies, banks and lenders out of about $4 million.

Fifty-three other people—most of

See RINGLEADER on Page 4

Businesses urged to take part in govt wage study

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas A. Brennan encouraged businesses and business groups yesterday to participate in the CNMI government's ongoing prevailing wage and workforce assessment study, a day after Chamber executive director Richard Pierce brought to the Department of Commerce's attention alleged incidents where Commerce and CNMI Department of Labor enumerators would say that the Chamber's prevailing wage survey and summary reports "were not as creditable as what the CNMI [government] will produce later this year."

Brennan

Commerce officials could not be reached for comment yesterday, an austerity Friday, but Pierce said that Commerce indicated to him that they would "canvas their enumerator staff and prevent such statements from being made in the future."

Brennan urged the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Society for Human Resources Management and all other businesses in the CNMI to participate in the ongoing CNMI Department of Commerce 2011 CNMI Prevailing Wage and Workforce Assessment Study.

He said even though the Chamber completed its own prevailing wage

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EARLY BLOOMERS

A flame tree across Winchell's on Beach Road in Garapan is now starting to show its intensely colored flowers, way ahead of the peak of flame trees' blooming period in June. Agricultural consultant Isidoro Cabrera studied the blooming period of flame trees on Saipan and found out that for the past 10 years, the peak of the flame trees' blooming period is in fact between the second and third week of June, and this was the reason why the holding of the Flame Tree Arts Festival was moved from April to June to coincide with the blossoming of flame trees. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Local

CUC: Judge's visit to Saipan facilities 'extremely helpful'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The recent visit made by U.S. District Court Judge David Carter to the facilities of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. was "extremely helpful" because he actually witnessed several important developments, according to deputy executive director Alan Fletcher.

Carter, together with officials and representatives of local and federal agencies, spent the whole day Wednesday inspecting almost all CUC facilities and projects. Starting as early as 7:30am, Carter walked the oil pipeline route with CUC officials, asking many questions and verifying information along the way. The oil pipeline is among the major projects that are being funded by the federal government.

Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune* that the tour went very well, although the group wasn't able to faithfully follow the schedule of places to visit that single day.

Following the visit to the pipeline, the group toured the ongoing EPA remediation work and the power plants. Power Plant 3, he said, was visited after lunch, followed by the various water and wastewater facilities, including the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant and ocean outfall.

Fletcher said the group broke up at 4pm then met again an hour later in court. They worked with the judge until 11:15pm. Wednesday night.

"The judge personally oversaw development of the contractor's constructing execution plan, gaining on-the-spot approvals and consensus between EPA and CUC on a variety of issues," said Fletcher, adding that CUC and its contractors were also tasked to work through certain elements of the design and construction plan that will be reported back to the court at 4pm Thursday.

"The visit and tour have been extremely helpful to CUC. It has brought together folks from EPA, CUC, various agencies and businesses to cut through 'red tape' that typically accompanies the approval process. Judge Carter was very complimentary of all involved and directly recognized the progress CUC has made in meeting the requirements of the stipulated orders," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Carter also praised CUC employees for their accomplishments, Fletcher said. "Clearly, he saw improvements from his last visit and was quick to recognize the work that went into those improvements."

Based on the judge's original schedule, most of the pipeline and power visits did occur, with the exception of a visit to Power Plant 4.

In March 2009, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson signed stipulated orders that set requirements and deadlines for CUC to meet. The orders represent the agreement between the CNMI and EPA based on the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

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Owners of defunct Club Jama, ex-dancers ask court to dismiss suit

The owners of the defunct Club Jama and 10 of their former dancers who had sued the club for allegedly not paying them overtime are now asking the federal court to dismiss the suit after reaching a settlement in the case.

Attorneys Colin M. Thompson, counsel for plaintiffs, and G. Anthony Long, counsel for defendants Chanpac Inc., owner of the former Club Jama, and Chanpac officers Ernest J. Strange and his wife, Thelma Strange, told the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday about their agreement to have the case dismissed with prejudice. That means the case cannot be re-opened.

Thompson and Long asked the district court to retain jurisdiction to enforce the settlement agreement. Each party shall bear their own attorney fees and costs.

The terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

The complainants, through Thompson, filed the lawsuit in 2009, alleging among other things, that the defendants forced them to dance for events and functions outside and in addition to their normal work hours at the club.

The Stranges reportedly now reside in Tennessee.

In September 2010, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Philip M. Pro canceled the trial that was then scheduled for Sept. 20, 2010, after being informed that a settlement has been reached.

In December 2007, police and Labor investigators raided the barracks of Club Jama in Chalan Piao and rescued six dancers who were allegedly being falsely imprisoned.

Several other then employees of the club, including a dancer, later denied the allegations of their co-workers. The management then decided to shut down the club's operations.

The Strange couple was never charged criminally in court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

More NMC placement tests set; late registration begins Jan. 17

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting additional English and Math placement tests on the following dates:

English Placement Test Schedule

- Jan. 17, Tuesday, 9am – 4pm, Building M
- Jan. 18, Wednesday, 9am – 4pm, Building M
- Jan. 19, Thursday, 9am – 4pm, Building M
- Math Placement Test Schedule
- Jan. 17, Tuesday, 10am – 12pm, Room A-11

Those who wish to take courses at NMC must take the placement tests.

Late registration for NMC's spring 2012 semester begins on Tuesday, Jan. 17, and will continue until Friday, Jan. 20, 2012 (8am – 5pm).

There is a $25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC cashier (M-F, 8:30am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee. If you have a placement test fee waiver, students must obtain a placement test slip from the Office of Admissions and Records prior to taking the test.

Test takers must also bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the English placement test are strongly encouraged to contact the Language and Humanities Department to schedule an appointment. "Walk-in" test takers will be accommodated based on seat availability. The average time to complete the English placement test is between 1.5 and 2.5 hours.

To schedule an appointment to take the English placement test or for more information, contact Jim Kline at 234-5498 Ext. 2017, Tom Colton at 234-5498 Ext. 2009, or Elsie Skang-Ngewakl at Ext. 2014.

Calculators may be used when taking the math placement test. NMC students are not allowed to take the math placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for NMC students who have not taken a math class within one year of taking the test.

If you have any questions about the math placement test, contact the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Dept. at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1202 or 1212.

For additional information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Mobil cautions against regulation of liquid fuel suppliers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. has expressed "grave concern" over a House-passed bill seeking to subject liquid fuel distributors and retailers to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, and asked that a thorough analysis be made to ensure that the measure will not be detrimental to the CNMI economy and its consumers.

Jaime Andres Ortega, president of Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., said that Mobil does not have yet a defined position to support or oppose passage of House Bill 17-238, given the unavailability of detailed information regarding how the price regulations would be implemented and what elements would be considered.

But he said the passage of this bill in one single session at the House of Representatives "suggests to us that the extensive implications of such type of regulation may have not been given proper consideration yet."

House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro's (Cov-Saipan) bill is now with the Senate where it is has been tentatively assigned to the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said yesterday that the Senate will have a meeting later this month with Mobil representatives to discuss the bill.

He said Shell Marianas, which will also be impacted by the bill if it is enacted into law, is welcome to participate in the meeting.

HB 17-238 says it is necessary to subject liquid fuel suppliers to regulation in order to protect the public from predatory pricing practices—the sale of a product or service at a very low price to drive competitors out of the market.

But Mobil's Ortega said the actual price data for the fuel suppliers operating in the CNMI clearly demonstrates that there is no such phenomenon.

"Mobil believes that free and open markets that encourage competition and innovation are the best ways to ensuring that the consumer enjoys the lowest prices," Ortega told Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Hofschneider in a Dec. 23 letter, a copy of which was obtained only this week.

Mobil just increased its pump prices on Saipan on Thursday by 10 cents a gallon, driving the cost of regular unleaded gasoline to $4.809 a gallon.

Shell prices remained the same as of late yesterday afternoon.

Saipan's gas prices, along with those on Rota and Tinian, are the highest in the United States and its territories.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), one of those who voted "yes" to HB 17-238, said yesterday that regulating fuel suppliers is the way to go, adding that he does not believe Mobil and Shell will lose money just by being partly regulated to help protect consumers.

"Mobil for example has earned billions of dollars. Maybe it's time for them to also give back to the communities they have operated in like Micronesia. In my opinion, they should work closely with the region's governments to help consumers. We have high gas prices out here," he said, adding that fuel supply will likely be discussed during the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' general assembly on Saipan in June.

Palacios authored a resolution last year asking Mobil and Shell to give a three-day advance notice every time they plan to increase their pump prices.

Mobil's Ortega, meanwhile, said in his letter to senators that product pricing decisions are typically best made by companies themselves based on sound business principles and considerations of long-term viability.

"In regulated markets where price controls are externally imposed—and costs, margin requirements and other variables impacting the economics for the suppliers are not thoroughly and properly contemplated—companies often recur to forced efficiencies to generate reductions in operational expenses," Ortega said.

He said this may result in measures such as labor force reductions, closure of non-profitable retail locations, reduction of operating hours, and deferral of investments required to ensuring supply reliability in the medium and long term. Ortega said that price regulations can create economic distortions and dampen investor sentiments, both of which are detrimental to the economy.

Hofschneider, for his part, said he himself has started studying the House bill and Mobil's concerns.

Ada retains Education Board's top post

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members of the State Board of Education gather for a group photo after the election of its officers last Thursday. From left are board members Lucy Blanco-Maratita, secretary-treasurer Galvin Deleon Guerrero, vice chairperson Tanya King, reelected chairperson Marylou S. Ada, student rep Mary Hocog, board member Herman T. Guerrero, and commissioner of education Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Members of the Board of Education unanimously voted to retain its leadership this year under the chairmanship of Marylou S. Ada during a meeting on Thursday at the Susupe office.

Ada, along with vice chair Tanya King and secretary-treasurer Galvin Deleon Guerrero, received the overwhelming support of their colleagues and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan.

This year marks Ada's second term as board chair; she succeeded Lucy Blanco Maratita in 2010.

Assignments for committee chairmanships will be announced later.

Ada told *Saipan Tribune* that she looks forward to 2012 as a better year for the Public School System. She said her leadership will continue to "provide the sense of positive reinforcement to move along with the courses that we've been doing."

Ada said the board will be more vigilant this year and more transparent and accountable, in a bid to ramp up student achievements in schools. Despite the expected challenges in 2012, she remains optimistic that PSS will still be able to deliver.

PSS has over 10,000 students from kindergarten to 12th grade in 19 public schools on three islands this school year.

Rough year

Board member Herman T. Guerrero expects 2012 to be a "rough year" for the school system due to the limited financial support from the local government. PSS has two funding sources: appropriation from the Legislature and grants from federal agencies. This fiscal year, PSS was allocated only $30 million by the local government. Of that amount, $28 million will be used to pay for personnel's salary, leaving only $2 million for operations.

Guerrero, who has been the board's fiscal and budget committee chair for many years now, believes that with the government's financial situation, the appropriated amount for PSS may continue to drop until the end of the fiscal year in September. He said a "clear picture" of the government's true financial state may help PSS better plan for the coming months.

"We need to figure out how to survive between now and the coming months. We need to know the real numbers so we can look at the areas that we can cut," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Guerrero said the PSS financial team is tasked to make a comprehensive budget analysis that will indicate scenarios and options for the board to take.

Driver of getaway vehicle used in armed rob arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police arrested late Thursday afternoon the alleged driver of a getaway vehicle used by two men who robbed a man at knifepoint outside Town House in Chalan Kanoa last October.

Police served the arrest warrant on Shane Indalecio Ada, 20, for conspiracy to commit robbery. His bail was set at $10,000 cash. He was brought to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing.

Ada was actually the first one arrested shortly after the robbery when the victim, a Chinese national, chased the suspects and called police.

Ada allegedly confessed his participation in the crime and identified his companions as Michael Jordan Cabrera, 22, and Franklin Jess Atalig, 20.

Ada was then released as police conducted further investigation.

Police arrested Atalig at his residence in As Lito on Oct. 24, 2011. A Commonwealth Ports Authority officer later caught Cabrera at the Saipan International Airport when he allegedly attempted to flee Saipan to the U.S. mainland. The charges against Atalig and Cabrera are still pending.

Police said that Ada had confessed to planning the robbery with Cabrera and Atalig.

When showed a photo lineup, the victim allegedly identified Cabrera and Atalig as the ones who robbed him in the early morning hours of Oct. 23, 2011.

The victim told the police that he had parked his vehicle outside Town House at 1:15am when the two suspects, later identified as Cabrera and Atalig, got into his car.

The suspect in the backseat choked the victim. The second suspect in the front passenger seat pointed a knife at the victim's chest and took his wallet, containing $107.

The two suspects then got off, ran to their getaway car parked by the beachside of Aquarius Beach Tower, and drove off.

The victim chased the robbers' car, while at the same time reporting their location to a police dispatcher.

Responding police officers later intercepted the suspects' car along Martinez Road. Ada was the only one arrested then as he had already dropped off Cabrera and Atalig near the Ador Restaurant in San Antonio.

Police said the victim identified Cabrera as the one who pointed the knife at him and took his wallet.

Atalig was allegedly the one who choked the victim from behind.

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- **DOMINIQUE S. PALACIOS and GLORIA S. PALACIOS,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0330** **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 15, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 011 G 735, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 14, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4182, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 3, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of January, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Ex-CRM official placed in custody for hospitalization

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter yesterday issued an order placing former Coastal Resources Management official Benny K. Pangelinan in the custody of the U.S. Attorney General for hospitalization.

Carter had found Pangelinan in violation of two conditions of his probation, but at the same time the judge determined that there is reasonable cause to believe that the defendant is presently suffering from a mental disease or defect.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe and defense counsel Steven Pixley agreed that neither an examination and report nor a hearing is needed regarding Pangelinan's mental state.

Carter said that Pangelinan is provisionally sentenced to commitment for a period of two years.

Carter said when and if the director of the facility in which Pangelinan is hospitalized determines that the defendant has recovered from his mental disease or defect and is no longer in need of custody for treatment, the director shall promptly file a certificate to that effect with the clerk of court.

Carter conducted a hearing on Wednesday and Thursday regarding the U.S. Probation's request to revoke Pangelinan's probation for violating his supervised release.

In January 2007, a federal jury had found Pangelinan guilty of five wire fraud charges for defrauding potential investors and his involvement in Internet scams. He was sentenced to three years in prison and ordered to pay $129,250 in restitution to five victims.

After serving his jail term, Pangelinan was released from jail and placed on three years of supervised release.

In September 2011, the U.S. Probation filed a petition to revoke the defendant's probation for violating the conditions. This after U.S. Probation found, among other things, that Pangelinan borrowed a total of $21,450 from a couple and received over $11,000 from a family member, with promises to both that he will double their money. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Power outage today in Chalan Kiya

There will be a power outage today, Jan. 14, 2012, from 8am to 11am, affecting areas that include Chalan Kiya (Mobil) station, Saipan Health Clinic, partial of Saipan Country Club, Chalan Kiya Drive and laterals leading into Plata Drive and Kulot Di Rosa Drive.

According to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., its power distribution crew will be performing line clearing. This outage is necessary to allow the linemen to work safely around the power lines. ***(CUC)***

BUY-WALK OPERATION FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A Corrections officer escorts Lun Lai Xia, a suspected supplier of methamphetamine or "ice," outside a courtroom after a bail hearing on Thursday afternoon in the Superior Court. Detectives arrested Xia on Wednesday after he allegedly sold $340 worth of "ice" to a "cooperating defendant."

RINGLEADER

From Page 1

them, like Park, Korean immigrants living in New Jersey or New York—were charged in September 2010.

Prosecutors said Park and his co-conspirators operated a scheme to buy Social Security cards from brokers who fraudulently obtained them from Asian immigrants—mostly Chinese nationals—working in American territories, including Guam, American Samoa, and Saipan.

The cards were then resold to Korean immigrants in the territorial U.S. who used them to apply for driver's licenses in California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Nevada, New York and elsewhere. Several of the defendants then used their U.S. identifications to apply for credit cards. Some used all the credit they obtained to buy luxury goods such as vehicles, designer bags or liquor, some of it to resell.

Park, a 45-year-old native of South Korea, lives in Palisades Park, a town just across the George Washington Bridge from Manhattan that is home to a large Korean population. He emigrated from Seoul in 1999 to start a business importing raw materials from Central America to manufacture hats in New Jersey, according to his attorney, Christian Fleming.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Park took a $100,000 family loan against his mother's house in South Korea to keep his business afloat. It had slowed and faltered in the wake of the attacks, largely because of tightened U.S. restrictions on imported goods, Fleming said. Park turned to the illegal enterprise, according to his lawyer, out of desperation to try to repay his debts.

"That's what led to this," Fleming said. "He feels a lot of shame and accepts full responsibility, and that's why he wanted to plead guilty."

Michael Ward, special agent in charge of the FBI's Newark division, and Paul Fishman, U.S. attorney for the District of New Jersey, said Park headed a sophisticated criminal enterprise that made millions of dollars in profits and went to great efforts to conceal itself from U.S. authorities.

Park ran the operation by using shell businesses, advertising the sale of U.S. identity documents in local Korean-language newspapers and employing a staff that included identity document brokers, people who worked to increase credit limits and boost scores for customers using the fraudulently obtained credit cards and local merchants who would swipe the cards at their businesses to get banks to transmit them money, according to court documents.

"Sang-Hyun 'Jimmy' Park was the head of a New Jersey crime conglomerate which advertised, facilitated and supported a multitude of frauds resulting in staggering economic losses," Ward said.

The five counts to which Park pleaded guilty could carry up to 70 years in prison when he is sentenced in April.

Another defendant, Ho K. Yu, known as Edmund, also admitted his role in the scheme Monday in Newark federal court. The 59-year-old Tenafly, New Jersey, resident pleaded guilty to three counts of conspiracy to commit wire fraud affecting financial institutions. Those counts could carry up to 30 years each.

Prosecutors said Yu fraudulently obtained hundreds of thousands of dollars in commercial loans for customers or falsely built up credit scores for them. His attorney, Robert Stahl, said he had entered the business thinking it was a legitimate enterprise to help people obtain credit but continued working there after he found out it was not. Stahl said his client had accepted responsibility for his actions by pleading guilty.

Also Tuesday, 37-year-old Yu-Je Jo, of Cliffside Park, New Jersey, was sentenced in Trenton federal court to two and a half years in prison after pleading guilty in the case.

The U.S. attorney's office said several other defendants had pleaded guilty to various offenses in the case.

BUSINESSES

From Page 1

survey some five months ago, there are other reasons to assist CNMI Commerce with its own version. The Chamber's survey has already been accepted by the U.S. Department of Labor for determining prevailing wage rates for CNMI employers who are petitioning their employees for H-1B visas.

Brennan said any prevailing wage survey whose product is used by U.S. Labor is only good for up to two years.

"CNMI Commerce will overlap our work, and employers will have two summary reports to utilize for their petitions of USCIS and U.S. DOL's Office of Foreign Labor Certification," he said.

He also said that CNMI Commerce's study is more than just a survey sample of employers' employees and their wage rates in the CNMI.

"It is a study to attempt to cover the entire islands' workforce. The Chamber's prevailing wage survey sampled approximately 8,700 employees, while Commerce will try to cover over 20,000 job holders," he added.

Pierce stressed the urgency of concluding a survey acceptable by U.S. DOL and USCIS.

He said employers were stuck having to use the prevailing wage rates in Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland.

"This, combined with a deadline of Nov. 28, 2011, for submission of all CW-1 applications of USCIS, created a situation where businesses literally had to estimate labor costs without the benefit of knowing all variables in cost and budget projections," he said in a statement.

Brennan said the Chamber just decided to forge ahead with its own survey.

"It was in everyone's best interests to do so. SCC agreed at a Strategic Economic Development Council meeting in June of 2011 that if the CNMI government would assist SCC with its prevailing wage survey, SCC would assist in getting CNMI businesses to participate in the Commerce study in early 2012," he said.

The Fitial administration earlier said that the Commerce study is a "census of prevailing wages paid to employees by all licensed businesses in the CNMI estimated to be close to or more than 2,000." It "will also capture important information and demographics of the labor force including but not limited to, employee skills, citizenship, and ethnicity as of October 2011."

HIGHER

From Page 1

This early, motorists are crying foul over the proposed increase at a time when the economy is in shambles and work hours and salaries are being cut as part of austerity measures in government and the private sector. Some motorists are suggesting other ways to make roads and the community safer without imposing stiffer fines.

"While it's a deterrent because it could force drivers to drive within speed limits and therefore promote road safety, I see this bill as merely a money-making scheme," said a 45-year-old father of two from Navy Hill, who had once been fined for beating a red light.

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), author of House Bill 17-264, said her proposal serves two main functions: create a safer driving experience and generate revenue for DPS and offset operational costs associated with enforcing traffic laws.

Under the bill, all fines and penalties collected will be transferred and deposited into a general fund account for the exclusive use of DPS.

The bill amends 9 CMC section 5251, referring to speed limits of the Commonwealth Code, by increasing the maximum fines by 50 percent "to discourage drivers from driving at high speeds."

Another father of two from Fina Sisu said yesterday that DPS has already put in place a lot of deterrence to discourage drivers from violating traffic laws.

"Why can't DPS focus more on catching criminals other than motorists? I believe they're focusing more on motorists because that's the easiest thing they could do," he said.

Another motorist, Ed Propst, said he would rather see a bill that increases the fines and jail sentences by 100 percent for "ice" dealers and burglars.

"How about our lawmakers work on a three-strike law instead? That would have a greater impact than increasing speeding tickets," he said.

Maratita also introduced another bill that would transfer some functions of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles such as vehicle registrations and issuance of driver's licenses to a new Office of Vehicle and Driver Registration under the Department of Finance's Revenue and Taxation Division.

Both pre-filed bills will be introduced during Tuesday's House session, along with a resolution authored by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) supporting DPS in its ongoing highway checkpoints and encourage more safety checks for vehicles at night.

Torres, one of the longest serving lawmakers in the CNMI, said in his House Resolution 17-88 that the DPS commissioner should continue its sobriety checkpoints year-round to prevent serious vehicular mishaps involving drunk or drugged driving.

His resolution also urges the DPS commissioner to establish vehicle safety checks at night in order to inspect and cite vehicles with unsafe light systems that use other colors than the standard red, amber and clear, including the improper use of colored tints and colored bulbs on headlights and taillights "that bother and distract other drivers," among other things.

Torres' resolution also urges the commissioner to have his safety officers to make periodic checks at vehicle repair shops and auto parts stores to remind them not to sell illegal parts and lighting systems to customers.

ESGR award nomination closes Monday

There are only two left for Guard and Reserve members to nominate their supportive employers for the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR, a Department of Defense agency, is accepting nominations for the award until Monday, Jan. 16, 2012. The Freedom Award is the DoD's highest award for civilian employers supporting Guard and Reserve members.

All Guard and Reserve members are encouraged to nominate employers who have provided exceptional support of their military service. Nominations may be submitted by service members at www.FreedomAward.mil.

Last year, there were 19 nominations submitted from Guam and the CNMI, according to Capt Josephine Blas, ESGR Program Administrator for Guam/CNMI. Three local employers—Galaide Group, LLC, Hilton Guam Resort and Spa, and the CNMI Public School System—were named as semifinalists, or Top 148 of the over 4,049 nominations nationwide. Although they didn't win the coveted Freedom Award, their placement speaks volumes about employers of Guard and Reserve members on Guam, Blas said.

"Employers who go above and beyond in their support of Guard and Reserve members are providing a tremendous service to our country; they are contributing to the resiliency and peace of mind of the more than one million men and women who stand ready to serve when our nation's calls on them," said David McGinnis, acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

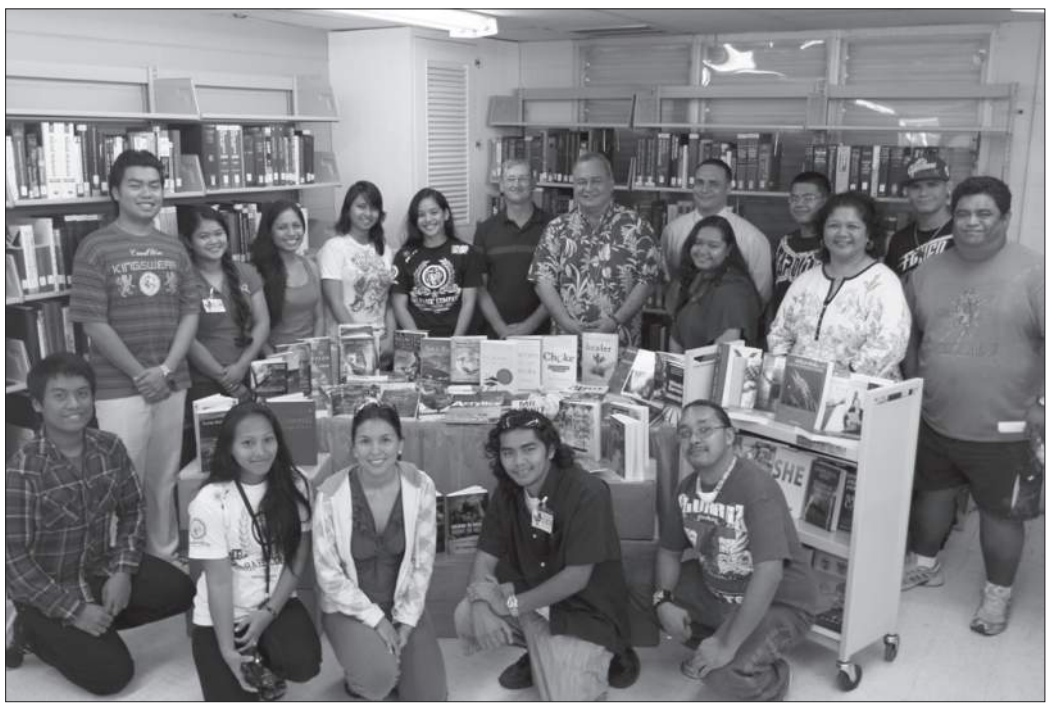
"Guard and Reserve members who feel their employers have gone the extra mile in supporting their military service should nominate them for the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award to show their appreciation and highlight their support as an example for others to follow."

The Top 15 Employers of 2012 will be announced by early summer and honored in Washington, DC during a special ceremony in September.

For 2012, 18 nominations were submitted so far to the ESGR, Blas said.

These include nine for Guam and four for CNMI employers. They are: Home Depot Guam; CNMI PSS – Oleai Elementary School; Tropical Beach House Guam; Joeten Enterprises, Inc.; Guam Power Authority; CNMI Public School System; Security Title, Inc.; Hollywood Theatres Saipan; Guam Marriott Resort & Spa; ASC Trust Corporation; Port Authority of Guam; Transportation Security Administration; GDOE-Agueda Johnston Middle School; Naval Hospital Guam; St. Joseph's Medical Transport; GDOE-Oceanview Middle School; and GDOE-M.U. Lujan Elementary School.

For questions regarding the Freedom Award, visit www.FreedomAward.mil or contact Capt Josephine Blas at 671-735-0456 at the ESGR Guam-CNMI Office. ***(ESGR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A DONATION OF BOOKS

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, standing seventh from left, takes time for a group photo with Northern Marianas College students and officials after donating several boxes of books to the NMC library as part of the Library of Congress Surplus Program. Also pictured are Keolester Buenpacifico, standing far left, Associated Students of NMC vice president; Matthew Pastula, standing sixth from left, NMC director of Library Programs and Services; Leo Pangelinan, standing eighth from left, dean of Student Services and acting NMC president; Barbra Merfalen, standing third from right, dean of Academic Programs and Services; and ASNMC president Lawrence Camacho, standing far right.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Marianas Pa'gu to feature Buckingham

Marianas Pa'gu: Marianas Perspectives, with host and producer John "Bolis" Gonzales will feature CNMI Attorney General Ed Buckingham on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012, in a conversation about the AG's Office, its relationship with agencies, and who the AG is beholden to. Watch nightly during primetime on ABC Ch. 7 from 6pm to 7pm Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Shows also air on www.betelnutradio.com. For questions, appearance, or sponsorship, contact 285-META (6382) or email johnogonzales@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 17 and 20, from 11am to 4pm.

The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 094 D 03, containing an area of approximately 951 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Man Bao Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Directors of the Corporation are Cheung, Pingyin and Yuan, Beihua.

The President/Treasurer of the Corporation is Cheung, Pingyin and the Vice-President/Secretary is Yuan, Beihua.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Antonio Rasiang.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a facility with several business activities such as tour agency, a restaurant, a car rental, automobile repair shop, and related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before January 26, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intensionña para u mana'ma'atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguin propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tånu' pupbliku ha diskribi kumu Lot No. Lot No. 094 D 03, ni kinonsisti åria kåsi guaha 951 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya Garapan, Saipan. I kopian i lugåt gaigi gi pumalu na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Man Bao Corporation, CNMI Corporation. I Direktot i Corporation siha si Cheung, Pingyin yan si Yuan Beihua.

I Presidenti /Tresureru gi Corporation si Cheung, Pingyin yan i Sigundu Presidenti/Sekritåriu si Yuan, Beihua.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Antonio Rasiang.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa o lugåt solamienti para hinangai developing yan managing facility yan pulu aktibidåt bisnis siha tåtkumu our agency, sagan chumotchu, atkilon kareta, shop manareklan tumobit.

I teman i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon sa' 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus.

I maproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt, ingklusu i prisenti na estroktura.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi sigundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' na ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Garapan, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Ineru 26, 2012 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106(b) mellól Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka remuschál emwal rebwe isisilong yaar mángemáng , data awewee, me angiingi reel pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap. Sengi Alléghul Toulap ye 15-2, ebwal ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 094 D 03, eyoor tiwabwughúw limeigh me eew laapal(951 square meters) elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Arabwal, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilón nge Man Bao, eew CNMI Corporation. Schóól assamwoolul Coporation nge Cheung, Pingyin , me Yuan, Beihua.

Samwoolul/Treseróru (President/Treasurer) Coporation nge Cheung, Pingyin me aruschayúl Samwool/Sekkretaria (Vice President/Secretary) nge Yuan, Beihua.

iii. Schóól aweweey akkilon yel nge Mr. Antonio Rasiang.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá falúw yeel rel ebwe ayoora me lemeli eew facilidóód il business rel tour agency, leliyal mwungo(restaurant), car rental, ferúl ghareta (automobile repair shop) me bwal akkaw mwóghutughut.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years). Emmwel rebwe bwal sóóbwey ngáli seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol méél akkilon nge ebwe mwiril sángi percentage il yaal appraised fair market value il falúw, me bwal meta kka e akkayu llól bwuley yeel.

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi merel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songsong village, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Arabwal, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughi ischil mángemáng, aingiingil merel amweyút mmwal Eneero (January) 26, 2012 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

On Iran, how far is too far?

Iran's development of nuclear weapons poses a grave threat to world stability and possibly an existential threat to this country's Middle Eastern ally, Israel. But how far can one go in efforts to thwart Tehran's nuclear ambition before going too far? Economic sanctions are one thing, but what about launching viruses to ravage Iranian computers? And how about the targeted assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists?

That appears to be what happened Wednesday, when Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, a supervisor at the uranium enrichment plant in Natanz, was killed—reportedly by a car bomb that had been magnetically attached to his vehicle by a passing motorcyclist. That's the kind of clean, covert assassination method favored by Western intelligence agencies.

Roshan wasn't the first Iranian scientist to be targeted. At least two others have been killed (also by vehicle bombs) and a third injured within the last two years. Tehran's Security Council chief said Roshan's killing was "an act of the Zionists," and while we're not in the habit of believing such pronouncements, one would have to willfully ignore accounts of past covert Israeli activities not to at least suspect Israeli involvement—especially because the Israeli government has made little effort to deny it. The closest thing to an official statement from Jerusalem on the bombing was a Facebook post by Israeli military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yoav Mordechai: "I don't know who took revenge on the Iranian scientist, but I am definitely not shedding a tear."

The denial was more strenuous in Washington. "I want to categorically deny any United States involvement in any kind of act of violence inside Iran," said Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

She went on to deliver a lecture about the need for Iran to shut down its nuclear program, which we agree with. But we also think the bombing merited something more—a strong statement that the United States decries political assassinations. The U.S. is already on shaky legal and ethical grounds with its own program of targeted drone assassinations of suspected terrorists. But at least we're at war with al-Qaida. State-sponsored extrajudicial killing is a serious violation of international law, and car-bomb assassination is a tactic little different from the methods used by terrorists. It would be nice to hear Clinton, or President Obama, emphasize such principles.

Economic sanctions don't appear to be doing much to slow Iran's nuclear progress, and that is worrisome. But slaughtering scientists on the streets of Tehran isn't the answer. It is as inefficient as it is morally bankrupt, because killing a handful of experts won't erase the country's institutional nuclear knowledge. If Israel is involved, it's a shameful and foolish policy.

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WE REALLY DON'T CARE HOW YOU TREAT YOUR WOMEN.
"SELLING ARMS TO SAUDI ARABIA SENDS A STRONG MESSAGE."

How to predict a president

By BRAD SCHILLER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Every four years, Iowa and New Hampshire are the first states to cast votes to select the nominees for president. But does that really mean they're bellwethers of national political sentiment? In the last five contested Republican battles, voters in Iowa wrongly predicted the eventual Republican nominee three times. A coin flip would have done better. And in 2008, New Hampshire Democrats went for Hillary Rodham Clinton over Barack Obama.

So if you can't count on Iowa and New Hampshire, where should you look to get an accurate reading on the country's political future? One option might be the United Astrology Conference, to be held in New Orleans in late May. There, the group plans to divine the likely winner of the November elections from the position of the planets. In May 2008, the astrologers noted that Saturn's predicted opposition to Uranus on Election Day implied upheaval and transformation—the kind of "change" that would sweep Obama into the White House.

Or perhaps you'd prefer looking to market forces to predict the outcome? The University of Iowa College of Business provides an electronic futures market that allows people to place bets on real-world events, including presidential elections. The 2012 market has been trading since July 1, 2011, with "unnamed" Democratic and Republican nominees. As of now, the implied predictions are about even, with prices of 50 cents for the unnamed Democrat and 49.8 cents for the unnamed Republican.

If you pick the winner, you get $1 on your 50-cent investment, but you get nothing if the candidate you put your money on loses. On the eve of the 2008 election, the prices were 90 cents for Obama and 10 cents for McCain. This market has correctly predicted every presidential election since 1980.

For those who do not want to wager real money but would like to express a preference, there is the 7-Eleven coffee cup poll. In October, 7-Eleven stores will be selling coffee in either blue (Democrat) or red (Republican) colors. Consumers pick their color and implied choice. This poll has been right since its launch in 2000.

Timing is, of course, a crucial factor in the track record of these election forecasts. Predicting the winner on the eve of an election is a lot easier than making a prediction in January. Last-minute opinion polls (including prediction markets) and voter exit polls have great track records. But their success is no more impressive than predicting the Super Bowl victor with 1 minute left to play. Getting that prediction right at the beginning of the season is a lot harder.

Timing is one of the things that make Ray Fair's predictions so impressive. The Yale economist made his predictions for the 2012 presidential race way back in October 2010, long before anyone knew who would be challenging Obama this year. In fact, professor Fair says it does not matter who the challenger is. The only thing that matters in Fair's model is the economy. Echoing Bill Clinton's mantra—"It's the economy, stupid"—Fair offers a model of total economic determination. As he sees it, people will vote their pocketbooks. Period.

Think about that proposition for a minute. Nothing else matters? Not who the Republican nominee is? Not the vice-presidential nominee? Not money spent on the campaign? Not the number of candidate appearances or goofs? In Fair's model, it's all about the economy, plain and simple. And he's been right 90 percent of the time.

Fair's equation uses only two variables: economic growth and inflation. On the theory that voters will reward the incumbent who delivers on improving the economy, the calculation adds points for growth (as measured by changes in real gross domestic product) and subtracts them for increases in the rate of inflation.

Fair's model assumes voters have short memories. The economic despair of the last three years hardly matters. What counts, he says, is how well the economy is doing in the election year. That has to worry Republicans who want to make the prolonged downturn a central campaign issue.

In October 2010, Fair was predicting another decisive Obama victory in 2012. His prediction depended on a forecast of a strong 2012 economy. Fair assumed GDP growth of 3.69 percent in the first nine months of the year, including three "good news" quarters (in which GDP grows by more than 3.2 percent). Most other forecasters—the Conference Board, the National Assn. of Business Economics, the Congressional Budget Office, Goldman Sachs, etc.—foresee much slower growth and no "good news" quarters.

But even modest growth could make the election a lot closer than people now anticipate. So if you are handicapping the outcome, you had better keep an eye on the economy, not the candidates, the stars or the opinion polls.

Brad Schiller is a professor of economics at the University of Nevada, Reno, and the author of The Economy Today. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

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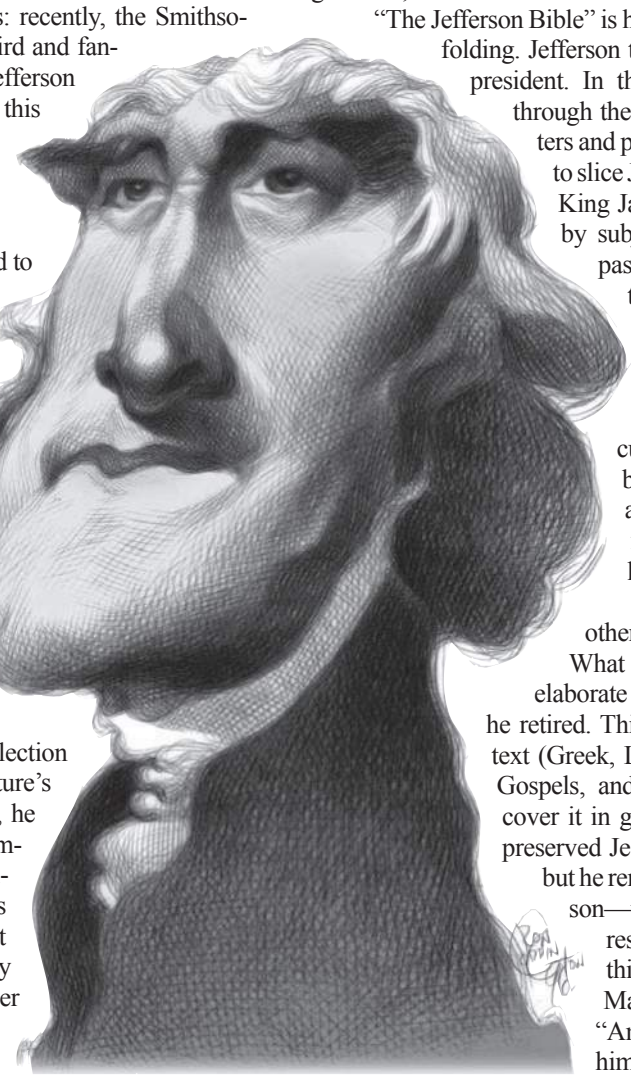
Jefferson's Bible offers a case study in how politics and Christianity mix it up in America

By CRAIG FEHRMAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Rick Santorum's near-miss in Iowa provides a reminder that, for many Republican voters (and not a few candidates), religion and politics overlap. If you need another reminder, though, consider this: recently, the Smithsonian has restored and put on display a weird and fantastic 19th-century book known as "The Jefferson Bible." That's Jefferson as in Thomas, and this private, personal document offers a useful case study in how politics and Christianity have mixed it up in American history, right up to today.



To understand Jefferson's Bible, you need to start with the one book he published in his lifetime: "Notes on the State of Virginia." Jefferson wrote this survey in the 1780s, organizing it around topics like "The different religions received into that State." But the book came back to haunt him two decades later when he was battling John Adams for the presidency. Indeed, long before Rick Perry's and Mitt Romney's books caused them trouble on the campaign trail, Jefferson had to deal with some very specific attacks on what he'd written about religion.

Those attacks became a key issue in the election of 1800. While Jefferson referred to "Nature's God" in the Declaration of Independence, he preferred to keep his personal beliefs to himself, a reticence that lined up with his philosophy of individual freedom and religious tolerance. In "Notes," he put it this way: "It does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods, or no god. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg."

In a presidential campaign, and in the hands of Jefferson's enemies, this passage became proof of the candidate's radicalism. One popular pamphlet from a pro-Adams minister quoted "Notes," then countered it: "Let my neighbor once persuade himself that there is no God," the minister warned, "and he will soon pick my pocket, and break not only my leg but my neck."

Such attacks proved effective enough that, when Jefferson did win the election, some families buried their Bibles in their gardens, fearing the new president would burn them. So it made sense that Jefferson continued to keep his religious views private. Years later, after he and Adams had resumed a correspondence, Jefferson described Jesus' teachings as "the most sublime and benevolent code of morals." The problem, he wrote in another letter to Adams, came in the "artificial scaffolding" that surrounded those teachings—the Virgin Birth, the miracles and so on.

"The Jefferson Bible" is his attempt to tear down that scaffolding. Jefferson took his first stab at it while still president. In the White House, "after getting through the evening task of reading the letters and papers of the day," he used a razor to slice Jesus' teachings out of a couple of King James Bibles, then grouped them by subject (e.g., "false teachers") and pasted them into a scrapbook. Its title page included these words: "an abridgment ... for the use of the Indians." Scholars agree it was most likely a sly joke about the impossibility of circulating such a genuinely radical book, or perhaps a joke about Adams' political allies, whom Jefferson referred to as "Indians" in his second inaugural.

That scrapbook didn't survive, other than a copy of its title page. What did survive is a second, more elaborate version Jefferson created once he retired. This one includes four columns of text (Greek, Latin, English, French) from the Gospels, and Jefferson had his bookbinder cover it in gold-tooled red leather. Jefferson preserved Jesus' life story and his teachings, but he removed anything that strained reason—the walking on water or Lazarus' resurrection. And Jefferson applied this standard to the smallest details. Matthew 19:2, for example, reads: "And great multitudes followed him, and he healed them there." But Jefferson carefully excised "and he healed them there." The Smithsonian has published a gorgeous full-color facsimile of the restored Bible, and it shows the comma after "him" just dangling there.

"The Jefferson Bible" ends with Jesus' entombment, and, given all the trouble caused by his published thoughts on religion, Jefferson seemed happy to take the book to his grave. When he mentioned it in letters to a small circle of friends, he cautioned them to keep it a secret. Even his family didn't find out about it until after he'd died.

In 1895, his heirs sold the book to the Smithsonian for $400. A few years later, a congressman—a devout Christian from Iowa, as it happens—wrote a widely reprinted article about it. The government produced an extravagant edition at a cost to taxpayers of more than $500,000 in today's dollars. Some protested the price. Others argued about whether the book confirmed or refuted Jefferson's atheism. Still, in 1904 the government published more than 9,000 copies, with 14 going to each congressman—and with enough kept in reserve that a copy also went to every incoming representative or senator, a tradition that continued through the 1950s.

Today, the facts about "The Jefferson Bible" might seem like an impossible obstacle to anyone who wants to fashion Jefferson as a hero for right-leaning Christians—and America as a "Christian nation." Instead, the book has been distorted to fit the religious right's agenda.

There's no better example of this than David Barton, an amateur historian who's become quite popular with Perry, Santorum and Michele Bachmann. Barton loves archival flourishes—his Texas offices include a concrete vault filled with 18th century arcana—but his true concerns lie in the present. Though Barton admits that "The Jefferson Bible" often comes up as proof that its namesake wasn't the evangelical Christian conservatives want him to be, he also says he can refute this. In a TV appearance in 2010, Barton fixated on Jefferson's "Indians" title page, mixed in some unrelated material about Jefferson's Indian policy, then pivoted to an outrageous fabrication: "He then gave it to a missionary," Barton said of Jefferson and his Bible, "and he said, 'Here, if you get this printed, and you use this as you evangelize the Indians.'"

There's absolutely no evidence of Jefferson giving either version of his Bible to anyone other than his bookbinder. Perhaps it's no surprise that last year, in Iowa, Newt Gingrich said, "I never listen to David Barton without learning a whole lot of new things." That's because Barton loves to cherry-pick a phrase and manipulate it support his side in a partisan, present-day debate.

But there's a bigger problem with Barton's method: He strips history of its complex human appeal. After all, "The Jefferson Bible" stands as one of the most interesting and iconoclastic moments in America's religious past—one man with a razor, a pot of paste and a unique and private set of ideas. They were intricate ideas: Jefferson was no more a Bible thumper than he was a Bible burner. And that's why he and his handmade book have enjoyed such an odd and exciting afterlife. After one politician got his 14 copies of the 1904 edition, he reported receiving more than 2,000 requests from his constituents.

Let's hope just as many people seek out the new Smithsonian edition, where they can see for themselves what Jefferson spent so much time making—and no doubt reading as well.

Craig Fehrman is working on a book about presidents and their books. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Iowa win helps Romney, but lacks luster

By CHARLES BABINGTON
The Associated Press

Charles Babington covers national politics for The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mitt Romney's whisker-thin Iowa caucus victory was underwhelming in scope and anticlimactic in its finality. But it moves him closer to the Republican presidential nomination to challenge President Barack Obama chiefly because of who finished fourth and fifth.

The former Massachusetts governor will gladly tout his win over Rick Santorum, who could have reversed the results with one more carload of supporters. More important to Romney, however, was the thumping suffered by former House speaker Newt Gingrich and Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

Republican strategists had seen them as having the best backgrounds to sustain a long-term threat to Romney, who remains unable to push his support beyond one-quarter of Republican voters. Now it's unclear whether Perry and Gingrich can maintain viable campaigns.

Romney is now poised to do something no Republican has done in recent times: follow a contested Iowa caucus victory with a primary win in New Hampshire, which votes next week. He has proven to be the best fundraiser, organizer and strategist thus far as plenty of state-by-state voting awaits before the November general election.

Romney's closest competitors in Iowa were Santorum, practically an afterthought as little as two weeks ago, and libertarian-leaning Rep. Ron Paul of Texas.

Santorum now must show whether he can build on his remarkable Iowa sprint to become the long-sought conservative alternative to Romney. It won't be easy.

Santorum, 53, badly lost his 2006 bid for a third Senate term from Pennsylvania. He has modest fundraising and operations, and he's largely unknown beyond circles that closely follow politics.

Paul, 76, is seen more as a libertarian crusader than a potential president. He recently said he doesn't envision himself as president.

"Romney did what he had to do, but not much more," said Republican strategist Terry Holt.

On the upside, Romney can argue that he not only won Iowa, but he beat expectations. He said from the start that Iowa was a bad political fit for him, and he focused his early campaign efforts on New Hampshire. He made a big Iowa push at the end, when it was clear that no rival had consolidated the anti-Romney vote.

He now heads to the friendly turf of New Hampshire, where he owns a home. The state's primary is next Tuesday.

But it's also easy to paint Romney's Iowa finish as unimpressive. He drew one-fourth of the vote. That's precisely the lackluster level he has pulled month after month, in poll after poll of Republicans.

It's also the same percentage Romney got when he finished a deeply disappointing second in the 2008 Iowa caucus. Campaign veterans say Romney must find a way to excite more conservatives if he is to beat Obama in November.

"If Romney was unable to move the needle even an inch from four years ago," despite heavy spending on his behalf, "it is hard to argue he has brought new people in or expanded the base of support," said former Obama campaign and White House aide Jen Psaki.

But Terry Nelson, who advised Tim Pawlenty before he left the presidential race, said it "will be very hard" for Santorum to raise the money and build the organization he will need to compete in New Hampshire, South Carolina, Florida and beyond.

Even if he carries New Hampshire, Romney won't be home free. His Mormon faith could hurt him in South Carolina, whose primary is Jan. 21. But with Perry and Gingrich wounded, it's unclear who can take full advantage.

Romney might be able to endure a poor finish in South Carolina and move on strongly to Florida, which votes on Jan. 31. It's a sprawling, diverse and expensive state for candidates.

Democrats were hoping for a slow and difficult start for Romney. They want to see him battered, and bled of money, for as long as possible before the summer nominating conventions.

Iowa's results leave both parties with plenty of disappointments.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

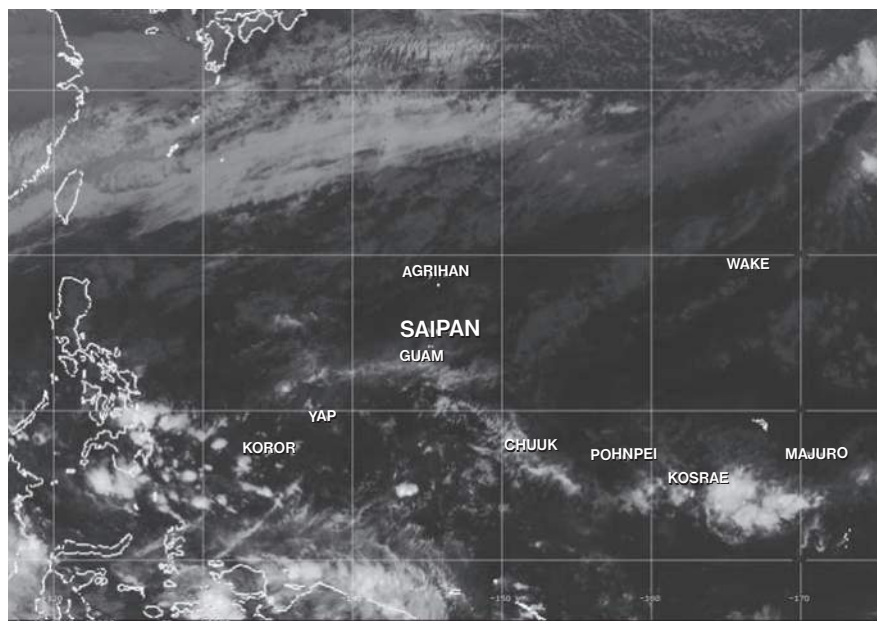
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲71	▼63
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲38	▼17
Hong Kong	Showers	▲65	▼59
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼68
London	Fog	▲38	▼32
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼46
Manila	Cloudy	▲85	▼74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲76	▼55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼49
New York	Windy	▲37	▼21
Osaka	Cloudy	▲48	▼39
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲41	▼31
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼33
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼41
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼34
San Francisco	Sunny	▲65	▼44
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲35	▼20
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼34
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲35	▼28

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N159E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 15N. Extensive cloudiness and scattered light showers are found over Minami Torishima and the far Northern Marianas along and up to 400 miles northeast of this boundary. A near equatorial trough runs southeastward from 5N130E to end near EQ151E. Scattered showers are occurring southwest of Chuuk between 7N and 3N from 143E to 153E and near Koror between 10N and 3N from 130E to 137E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers just south of Kosrae and southwest of Majuro within 90 miles of a line from 4N161E to 4N172E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:49 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
11:25 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:53 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
11:07 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:39 PM	10:06 AM
Sunday	11:36 PM	10:50 AM
Monday		11:35 AM
Tuesday	12:34 AM	12:24 PM
Wednesday	1:34 AM	1:16 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service
located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 14, 1999

CPA issues caution on casino-support infrastructure
The Commonwealth Ports Authority has cautioned the Tinian Legislative Delegation in carrying out infrastructure developments in support of the hotel casino on the island-municipality of Tinian. In a letter sent to the Tinian lawmakers, Carlos H. Salas, executive director, said gaming activity has the potential to stimulate the economy on the island as well as support its future development. However, unless Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino would be able to arrange regular air transportation for its clients, it is difficult to conclude that it would be successful in tapping the demand of the gaming industry.

CUC forum tackles environment
A forum will be held next week by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to discuss the environmental impact and the financial cost of a proposed water desalination plant on Saipan. The town meeting is scheduled for Wednesday and will hear comments from residents of central Saipan whether they are willing to pay higher water rates to finance the multimillion dollar project. "We want the customers to zoom in on the financial question of higher rates and tell us either 'yes' or 'no'," CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez said in a statement.

Jan. 14, 2000

NIELSEN TO LAWMAKERS: 'No legislation, no reimbursement'
The Department of Finance will not process pending requests for payment left by former members of the House of Representatives until a legislation is passed accepting these questionable expenditures. Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen said the only solution to the complaints brought by lawmakers in the past is if the present Legislature ratifies these expenditures. "Pass legislation. We will be waiting for that," she told in a brief interview after meeting with members of the new House leadership yesterday. She refused to answer when asked for details.

House leadership vows to help retire deficit
House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial pledged to work closely with the administration in order to bring down the huge government deficit as well as to improve the financial condition of the Commonwealth. He made this commitment after meeting with finance officials, led by Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen and Mike Sablan, the governor's special advisor on finance and budget. Members of his coalition that assumed the House leadership last Monday also attended the meeting. According to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Antonio Camacho, the talked focused on general issues concerning financial affairs of the government, but did not tackle specific recommendations by the Tenorio administration.

Jan. 14, 2005

Labor orders employer to pay over $18K in wages
The Department of Labor Hearing office recently ordered Saipan Lucky Corp. to pay a former employee over $18,000 in unpaid wages as well as reimbursement for medical treatment. In an administrative order issued Thursday, hearing officer Herbert D. Soll ordered the employer to pay $14,817.44 to former employee An Aizi for unpaid wages from May 21, 2002 to Feb. 25, 2003. Soll said that Aizi provided detailed records which showed that she worked a considerable amount of overtime hours; however, the employer failed to follow the provisions of the contract regarding hourly wages and overtime compensation. A pattern then developed in which the respondent would pay Aizi a fixed amount per pay period without regard to the actual work performed.

SGMA sits down with DoC's Salas on future of industry
Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association board members met with Department of Commerce Secretary Andrew Salas to discuss the industry's economic contributions to the general fund of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. SGMA's Richard A. Pierce and the board informed Salas that restrictive and antiquated labor permitting laws have lessened CNMI tax and fee collections to 80-85 percent of potential earning power from the factories. SGMA contends that bureaucratic permitting delays, and a system not aligned with industry demands result in lost work hours in factories due to the lapse between workers being repatriated and new workers being allowed to enter the CNMI to replace them.

Maharlika

Nomination open for 2012 Presidential Awards for overseas Filipinos

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. is now accepting nominations for the 2012 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas.

Established by virtue of an Executive Order signed in 1991, the Presidential Awards is a biennial search to recognize exceptional individuals and organizations for their outstanding contribution to Philippine progress and development. Some 338 overseas Filipino individuals, organizations and their foreign partners have received the award so far.

The four awards categories include: Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award, Banaag Award, Kaanib ng Bayan Award, and Pamana ng Pilipino Award.

Interested parties within the Embassy's Consular Jurisdiction, namely, Alabama, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia, are invited to submit the duly completed nomination form containing relevant information such as personal data, summary of relevant contributions with specific data and other supporting documents to the Philippine Embassy not later than 16 April 2012 at five o'clock in the afternoon.

Parties residing in other states are requested to send their nomination forms to the Philippine Consulate General exercising jurisdiction over them.

The rules on the filing of nomination, nomination forms and other information are available at www.2012presidentialawards.cfo.gov.ph. For more details, call the Philippine Embassy at 202-4679398. ***(PR)***

DUE TO LOW DEMAND IN FILIPINO COMMUNITY

PG consulate mulls ceasing weekend services

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General is looking at stopping its One-Saturday or Sunday-A-Month consular services this year due to the shrinking population of Filipino workers in the CNMI and as part of its cost-cutting measures.

Macaraig

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said yesterday that he disclosed this development during a meeting with Filipino community leaders Thursday evening

"The weekend services are under review because of the low demand and the high utility costs here in the CNMI," Macaraig told *Saipan Tribune.*

He noted, however, that Filipino workers who only have the weekends free to avail of consular services can still be accommodated provided that they inform the Consulate and make an appointment at least two days in advance when they plan to come in for any specific consular service.

"They can still be considered but it is still subject for review and approval by the Consulate," he said. "The moment that we need to offer the weekend services again, we can easily open it once more."

He emphasized the need for the Consulate to find ways to reduce costs, and one way is to stop offering the weekend services.

"Because of the low demand brought by the decline in the number of Filipino workers in the CNMI, we have to think of ways to minimize our cost without sacrificing the services rendered," he explained.

Still, Macaraig said they will maintain their 8am to 6pm schedule on weekdays to continue serving Filipinos in the Commonwealth. "That schedule will continue since it only has minimal impact in our expenditures," he added.

According to Macaraig, the Department of Foreign Affairs has the option to open, close, downsize or even downgrade a post based on its policy. In the case of the Consulate in the CNMI, it will most likely downsize, said Macaraig.

In fact, he disclosed that the consulate has not filled two positions that were vacated last year by Romy Garchitorena and Rey Madrilejos.

This year, two more staffers are expected to leave the Consulate. Another three from the Philippine Overseas Labor Office are also expected to vacate their posts.

"Given our economy, this is how it's going to be and we can't really do anything about it. But we vow to continue serving the Filipinos who are still here to the best of our ability," added Macaraig.

BOURNE SHOOTING AP

A production crew carries high powered firearms that will be used as props during a shooting of the Hollywood action thriller "The Bourne Legacy" Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012 in San Andres market in Manila, Philippines. Some people are complaining about restrictions on their movements due to the ongoing filming.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

United Filipino Organization board of trustees Boy Ching, Leo Canedo, and Ed Reyes hand the $2,500 check donation to Philippine Red Cross secretary general Gwendolyn Pang and officer-in-charge Ana Bandril at the Red Cross headquarters in Makati City on Wednesday.

UFO turns over Sendong donations to PH Red Cross

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three members of the United Filipino Organization's board of trustees turned over on Wednesday the donations they've collected for the victims of Typhoon Sendong to the Philippine Red Cross.

UFO president Bong Malasarte confirmed yesterday that Leo Canedo, Boy Ching, and Ed Reyes presented the $2,500 check to Philippine Red Cross secretary general Gwendolyn Pang and officer-in-charge Ana Bandril at the Philippine Red Cross office in Makati City.

UFO, the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI, spearheaded the fundraising drive to benefit the victims of Typhoon Sendong, which ravaged Cagayan de Oro and Iligan Cities in Mindanao before Christmas.

Included in the $2,500 collected amount was the $1,000 donation of IT&E.

"Knowing that the UFO as able to safeguard the money that community members donated for the Typhoon Sendong victims and turn it over to the proper authorities is an accomplishment and gives us a great feeling," Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune*.

Malasarte noted that they value the trust that donors gave to them in ensuring that the money will reach those who were affected by the unfortunate disaster.

"We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to all those who contributed and are willing to join us in our efforts to help our *kababayans* in Mindanao to rebuild their lives after this tragedy," he said.

UFO set to launch first ever 'Pusong Pinoy' event

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Valentine's Day is still a month away but the United Filipino Organization is already prepping up for the launch of its first ever event featuring various activities to celebrate the occasion.

Pusong Pinoy will be a whole-day event slated for Feb. 12 at the Civic Center grounds in Susupe.

UFO president Bong Malasarte said yesterday that the event, to be coordinated by a committee led by vice president for external affairs Fernando "Bok" Enano, will be on their list of annual events that the Filipino community can look forward to and enjoy.

"Our organization always strives to build positive relationships and so *Pusong Pinoy* is another opportunity for Filipinos and the rest of the community to come together and enjoy exciting activities with family and friends," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Pusong Pinoy will also serve as a venue for UFO members to demonstrate their camaraderie and teamwork while organizing the event.

UFO secretary Annamae Adaza said in a separate interview that Minda Castro, Olive Yana, and she will be actively involved in coordinating the program for the event.

Adaza promised the community another fun-filled event as there will be competitions, games, live entertainment, and food booths.

Highlighting the event will be *Panlasang Pinoy,* a food competition that would showcase the Filipinos' culinary talents, and *Ms. Pusong Pinoy*, a beauty pageant for young females age 16 to 25 years old.

Adaza is inviting amateur and professional cooks and interested females to join the two contests. Performing groups as well as food and non-food vendors who want to sell their products at the event are also encouraged to sign up and be part of the program.

"We hope you will all join us for this new and exciting event to celebrate Valentine's Day," said Adaza.

To sign up or for more information, call Bok Enano at 287-9756, Annamae Adaza at 483-5237 or Olive Yana at 285-7893.

POLO sets new training courses for OFWs

The Philippine Consulate General, through its Philippine Overseas Labor Office, has announced the schedule of its free training courses for Filipino workers for the first quarter of 2012.

Tailoring and Dressmaking Batch II will be held for six Saturdays from Jan. 28 to March 3, from 1pm to 5pm. Domingo Del Rosario will be the course instructor.

For the Basic Computer Operations II, classes will be held for six Saturdays from Feb. 4 to March 10, from 1pm to 4:30pm under instructor Jousel Regilme.

Module I, which covers Introduction to Course and Review Software, Desktop Application, Internet Application, and Hands-on Exercises Hardware, will be held on Feb. 4 and 21, from 5pm to 8:30pm.

Classes for Module II, Personal Computer Architecture and Networking Fundamentals, is on Feb. 18 and 25.

Module III or Introduction to Building and Fixing Computer, Introduction to Hardware Drivers, and Hands-on Exercises, is scheduled for March 3 and 10.

Marcelo V. Masilungan will serve as the instructor for Modules I to III. All classes will be held at the Filipino Workers Resource Center at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Interested applicants are requested to bring their CW receipt/receiving copy from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, valid passport, and one ID picture.

For more information, visit the POLO or call 235-3411 or 6992. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Philippines to leapfrog to 16th largest economy by 2050

By MICHELLE V. REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Philippines and Peru are among emerging economies that would become much more prominent in the next few decades, helped by demographics and rising education standards, with the Philippines set to leapfrog 27 places to become the 16th largest economy by 2050, according to a prediction of international bank HSBC.

The bank expects China to overtake the United States as the world's biggest economy by 2050, and said strong growth rates in other developing countries would help drive the global economy.

"Plenty of places in the world look set to deliver very strong rates of growth. But they are not in the developed world, which faces both structural and cyclical head winds. They are in the emerging world," the bank said in a report "The World in 2050."

HSBC based its forecasts on fundamentals such as current income per capita, rule of law, democracy, education levels and demographic change.

The bank said the Philippines would become a "star performer" in terms of its economic leap in the global rankings. HSBC said the Philippines is likely to post an average growth of 7 percent in the next 40 years.

Breaking down the average growth forecast, the bank said the country would likely grow by 8.4 percent from 2010 to 2020, by 7.3 percent from 2020 to 2030, and by 6.6 percent from 2030 to 2040, and by 5.8 percent from 2040 to 2050.

It said the advantage of the Philippines was its favorable macroeconomic fundamentals and improving governance.

Economic officials of the government often harp on what they call the country's positive macroeconomic fundamentals that include stable inflation, sustained growth over the years (it grew even when the global economy shrank in 2009), stable banking and financial system, and improving fiscal position.

Growing population a plus

HSBC said the Philippines was also put at an advantageous position by its growing population, which, if properly educated and trained, should help the economy generate more income over the next decades.

The fact that the Philippines has relatively low income gives it much room for growth, and that its favorable fundamentals will help the country maximize that room, the bank said.

"The most potent recipe for growth is a country that scores highly on the fundamentals discussed but currently has low income per capita. These economies should deliver the highest growth in income per capita as they 'catch up' with those with similar fundamentals," HSBC said.

Top 20

According to HSBC's forecast, the Top 20 largest economies by 2050 will be China, United States, India, Japan, Germany, United Kingdom, Brazil, Mexico, France, Canada, Italy, Turkey, South Korea, Spain, Russia, Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, Argentina and Egypt.

The Philippines' 16th rank by 2050 in terms of economic size marks a 27-notch improvement from its performance in 2010, said HSBC.

The bank thus said that the Philippines was expected to post the biggest leap in terms of economic ranking over the next four decades. "The Philippines looks set for a multidecade run of strong growth."

HSBC said Peru should average annual growth of 5.5 percent over the same period.

The sheer pace of population growth in countries such as Nigeria and Pakistan means that these economies will swell in size to be included among the 100 biggest economies even if their incomes on a per-capita basis remain low.

HSBC said lower scores for rule of law in Latin America constrained its per capita income projections for the region though it noted that Brazil was making headway in this aspect.

Losers

"The losers are the small population, aging economies of Europe," added the bank, which said the demographics in much of Europe underscored concerns about the debt problems faced by many of the continent's governments.

If sufficiently open to modern technology, developing countries could enjoy many years of robust GDP growth although they could struggle for growth drivers once they have adapted to technological advances, HSBC said.

"The initial years of development could be described as 'copy-and-paste' growth, as countries open themselves up and adapt to the world's existing technologies. Once the 'copy-and-paste' growth is complete…many economies struggle and get stuck in what is often known as the middle-income trap."

"But many of the countries we are considering are still at such an extremely low level of development that there are years of this 'copy-and-paste' growth ahead," it added.

China

It was here that many of the pessimism about China was misplaced, the bank argued.

"One of the most commonly cited reasons for concern about China is the high rate of investment as a percentage of GDP … (But) we believe the strong rate of investment is entirely justified—providing China with much needed basic infrastructure," it said.

The bank said high levels of education in Central and Eastern Europe meant that the regions could enjoy strong income per capita growth in the coming years before weak demographics eventually sap economic growth.

"While education rates are similar (to the West), the average income per capita in the central and eastern Europe block is just one fifth that of the developed world. For this reason … economies have great scope to catch up in income per capita," HSBC said.

"Some of the smaller Eastern European countries—Romania, the Czech Republic and Serbia—(should) all do extremely well, particularly in the coming decade, before demographics prove to be more of a drag." ***With a report from Reuters***

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

China, Philippines to meet over South China Sea

BEIJING (AP)—China and the Philippines, which exchanged verbal barbs recently over areas in the South China Sea they both claim, will meet this weekend to discuss their dispute. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin told reporters Thursday that diplomats will meet Saturday to discuss ways to ease tensions. Earlier this month, Manila protested over three Chinese vessels that allegedly intruded into its waters in December. China called the accusations "groundless" and said China has indisputable sovereignty over the area. Liu reiterated China's position Thursday, saying it claims the area on historical grounds, and that the two sides should resolve the dispute through dialogue and negotiation. China claims all of the South China Sea, while Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines also have claims over potentially oil- and gas-rich territories.

Muslim rebels say early pact with Manila unlikely

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The largest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines said an early peace pact with the government is unlikely, citing remaining key differences. Government negotiators on Wednesday ended three days of talks with the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Malaysia, which has been brokering the yearslong negotiations. Both sides agreed to hold another round of talks next month. Government negotiator Marvic Leonen said in a statement Thursday that the talks "have inched forward but not fast enough." He has hoped a peace pact could be concluded within the next three months to allow it to be enforced and adjusted if necessary before President Benigno Aquino III's term ends in 2016. Rebel negotiator Mohagher Iqbal was not as optimistic. "I don't think it can be done," he said and described the just-concluded talks in Kuala Lumpur as "very intense." Iqbal said without elaborating that contentious issues remain, including the question of amending the Philippine constitution to allow certain provisions of a future accord.

Philippine rebel leader wounded in gun attack

COTABATO, Philippines (AP)—Police say gunmen wounded a Muslim rebel leader in the southern Philippines and that his bodyguards killed one of the attackers. Senior Superintendent Danny Reyes says Muslimin Sema was on his way home in Cotabato city when two men on a motorcycle opened fire on his van. Sema, who heads a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front, was hit in the neck and taken to a hospital.

Officials say one of the gunmen was shot and killed by Sema's guards and the other escaped. The slain gunmen has not yet been identified. Sema was elected Cotabato city vice mayor after his group signed a 1996 peace pact with the Philippine government. However, he remains a member of the rebel group, and follow-up negotiations with the government continue.

Filipino parents, son killed by dynamite blast

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Police say a dynamite blast has killed a man, his wife and a son while the couple quarreled in their home in a fishing community in the southern Philippines. Police Senior Superintendent Edwin de Ocampo says the powerful blast early Tuesday also wounded four other children of the couple and destroyed their hut on stilts at the Rio Hondo district in Zamboanga city. De Ocampo says the father lit a stick of homemade dynamite used for blast fishing and hurled the explosive toward his wife in a fit of rage. The powerful blast instantly killed the couple and a son, who tried to break off the fight. It was not immediately known what sparked the spat.

EIGHT DIED HERE AP

Injured woman Rowena Miguel, second from left, and fellow resident Jemma Tejadas, left, react as they look at the damage on their house as a truck rammed into several houses after it allegedly lost it's brakes while going downhill along a road in Antipolo, Rizal province, east of Manila, Philippines on Thursday Dec. 22, 2011. Police reports said 8 people were killed and 5 injured as they truck crashed into several houses and a small eatery. Police officer Leonel Berludo says the truck apparently lost its brakes then hit a motorcycle, a passenger jeep, an SUV and two pedestrians before crashing into a police outpost in Taytay town. The van driver was killed and three policemen were injured in the damaged outpost. TV footage showed the van, which was carrying gravel and sand, hurtling down a road, smashing through barriers and hitting vehicles and people.

Pacquiao camp: No fight with Mayweather on May 5

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Manny Pacquiao's camp says there is no economic sense in setting up a bout with Floyd Mayweather on May 5 after the unbeaten American publicly challenged the Filipino champion via Twitter.

Pacquiao's financial adviser Michael Koncz told The Associated Press on Thursday that a 45,000-seat boxing arena being built in Las Vegas won't be finished before the end of May and staging the Pacquiao-Mayweather fight in a smaller venue is "foolish from an economic standpoint."

Mayweather challenged and taunted Pacquiao to a May 5 bout in a tweet on Tuesday.

"Manny Pacquiao I'm calling you out let's fight May 5th and give the world what they want to see," he tweeted.

Mayweather is available for a fight in May at the MGM Grand Garden after a judge agreed last week to postpone his jail sentence for domestic violence until June. Mayweather was sentenced to 87 days in jail, but likely will serve less time.

The MGM Grand only seats about 17,000, which could fetch around $20 million in sales, but the larger arena could raise an additional $30 million, Koncz said.

"Why would I tell Manny to fight on the 5th and throw away a percentage of 30 million? That's crazy," he said.

Top Rank promoter Bob Arum has told the Philippines' GMA television the only reason the fight won't happen is if there is an "economic problem."

He said the fight "could happen very, very easily" at the end of May—enough time to build the outdoor arena "the fight so badly needs."

"I will also guarantee Manny's purse," he said. "In other words, Manny doesn't want to go into the ring and just fight out a percentage."

He said Mayweather is looking for "outside parties to guarantee his end of the purse."

"So, until he finds the angel, there is no fight," Arum said.

In a separate interview with GMA, Pacquiao said that if Mayweather agrees to a "50-50 sharing, there will be no problem."

"The purse is not the issue right now, the date is," Koncz said. "But we don't have a problem splitting it 50-50."

The Pacquiao-Mayweather fight may be the most lucrative bout in boxing history.

Samu't Sari

SURPLUS BOOKS

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) is flanked by Northern Marianas College officials and students during his presentation of surplus books from the U.S. Library of Congress to NMC on Thursday. Sablan said in three years, he has been able to bring in some 15,000 books to the CNMI through the Library of Congress surplus program to help encourage students and library patrons to read.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

DONATION

Tan Siu Lin Foundation president Jerry Tan, center, holds up the over $7,200 donation of the Foundation and Tan Holdings employees for the victims of Typhoon Sendong in the Philippines just before the turnover ceremony at the TSL Plaza on Tuesday. Looking on is Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, left, and Foundation manager Ed Arriola.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan presents Fr. Isaac Masga Ayuyu with a congressional commendation that honors his service and commitment as one of the longest-serving spiritual leaders of the CNMI. Ayuyu is celebrating his 25th sacerdotal anniversary this year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FOOD STAMP LINE

Recipients of the food stamp program lined up Wendesday at the local NAP office in As Lito as early as 8am to either claim their vouchers, follow up on their applications, or try their luck at get their pending assistance.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 2nd birthday to our beautiful princess Hu'nonnie Tammy Prudenciana Baza Norita! We love you so much, baby girl! You are truly a blessing for us. You are the best thing that ever happened to us. With love, from Mom, Dad, and the Agulto, Norita, Palacios, and Baza families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy, happy birthday to Miss Tita Gabredo, who is celebrating her birthday today, Saturday, Jan. 14. May the good Lord above continue to bless you all the days of your life with many more birthdays to come! Much love always coming from your two sons, Chris and Marlon, your daughter-in-law Cat, your grandsons Caleb and Calen, all of your friends and family, as well as your entire MHS Dolphin family! We love you! Have a great one!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

All the gold, diamonds, and other jewels on earth cannot match the shine of love and care that you have bestowed upon us. You have given us the priceless gift of life and the priceless gift of having such a great mother. Happy birthday to our beautiful mother, Terry L Kisa! Greetings come from your children and grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

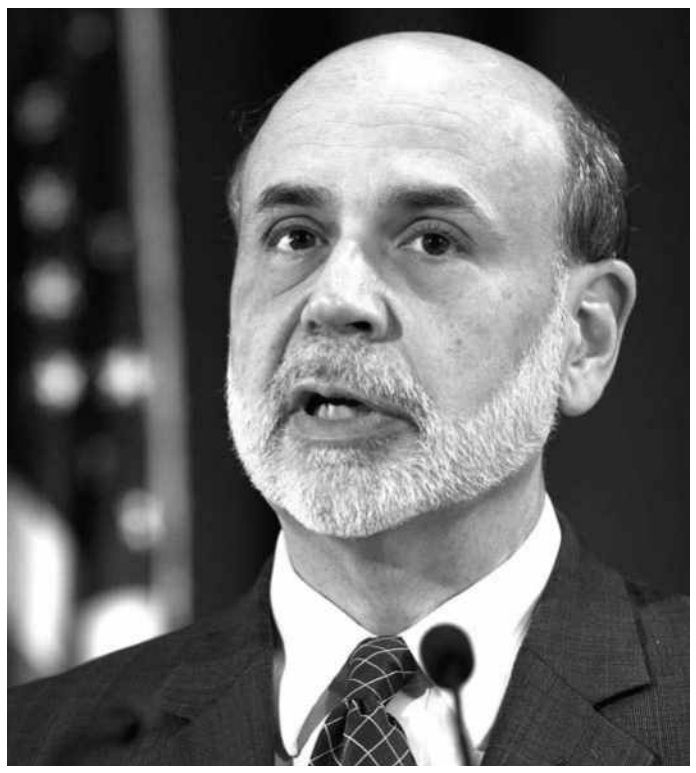
Documents show how Fed missed housing bust

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ben Bernanke presided over his first meeting as Federal Reserve chairman in March 2006 believing the nation's economy could pull off a "soft landing" from falling home prices. Three months later, Bernanke had begun to grasp that he and others had underestimated the risk housing posed to the economy.

Newly released transcripts of Fed meetings during Bernanke's first year as chairman show that, among Fed officials, he often expressed the most concern about housing. But no official, according to the transcripts, recognized the extent of the damage a housing bubble would cause. A year later, the housing market's collapse helped send the nation into its worst recession since the Great Depression.

In fact, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, then a Fed official, expressed confidence in September 2006 that "collateral damage" from housing could be avoided. The transcripts released Thursday covered the eight meetings of the central bank's chief policy-making body, the Federal Open Market Committee, during 2006. That included the last meeting of Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan in January of that year and Bernanke's first meeting in March after he had succeeded Greenspan as chairman.

The Fed releases minutes of the FOMC discussions three weeks after the meetings but full transcripts do not come out until five years later.



AP

In this Nov. 9, 2011 file photo, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke speaks during the Federal Reserve Conference in Washington.

The transcripts for 2006 show that at first Bernanke did not express concern about the cooling of the housing market after a boom that had pushed sales and home prices to record levels.

"I agree with most of the commentary that the strong fundamentals support a relatively soft landing in housing," Bernanke told his follow FOMC members at his first meeting as chairman in March.

Also in March, Bernanke said, "I think we are unlikely to see growth being derailed by the housing market, but I do want us to be prepared for some quarter-to-quarter fluctuations,"

At his second meeting as chairman in May, Bernanke still seemed fairly confident. "So far we are seeing, at worst, an orderly decline in the housing market; but there is still, I think, a lot to be seen as to whether the housing market will decline slowly or more quickly.

However, by the June meeting, Bernanke was expressing more caution saying that the slowdown in housing was "an asset price correction" that bore watching.

"Like any other asset-price correction, it's very hard to forecast, and consequently it's an important risk and one that should lead us to be cautious in our policy decisions," Bernanke said.

Hawaiian Rainbow papaya OK'd for export to Japan

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that on Dec. 1, the government of Japan approved Rainbow papaya for commercial shipment to Japan. The Rainbow papaya is genetically engineered to be resistant to the papaya ringspot virus. This announcement marks the beginning of a new chapter for Hawaiian papaya growers.

"The market opening in Japan is great news for Hawaii's papaya producers and even better news for American agricultural exports," said Michael Scuse, acting undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. "Under the Obama Administration, USDA has continued to expand markets for American goods abroad, worked aggressively to break down barriers to trade, and assisted U.S. businesses with the resources needed to reach consumers around the world. This announcement will ensure that Hawaii's papaya producers help to drive our agricultural economy by expanding exports, creating jobs, and strengthening our nation's competitiveness."

In the 1990s, an outbreak of the papaya ringspot virus decimated Hawaii's papaya crop. Scientists from Cornell University, the University of Hawaii, The Upjohn Company, and USDA's Agricultural Research Service used biotechnology to develop the Rainbow papaya, which is resistant to the virus. After receiving full clearance from the U.S. government, the Rainbow papaya was commercialized in 1998. Now, the majority of Hawaii's papaya crop is resistant to ringspot virus through genetic engineering.

Japan was once the major market for Hawaiian papayas, with annual sales reaching $15 million in 1996. These sales dropped to $1 million by 2010 while U.S. exporters awaited Japan's approval of Rainbow papaya. With Japan's approval for import of Rainbow papaya, U.S. papaya producers are set to regain access to this important market, supporting jobs through increased exports.

Currently, the American brand of agriculture is surging in popularity worldwide. Farm exports in fiscal year 2011 reached a record high of $137.4 billion—exceeding past highs by $22.5 billion—and supported 1.15 million jobs here at home. The agricultural trade surplus stands at a record $42.7 billion. Horticultural product exports are forecast to reach a record of $28 billion, based on steady demand and high prices. Exports of fresh fruits and vegetables are expected to be strong to Japan, Canada and the European Union. Strong agricultural exports contribute to the positive U.S. trade balance, create jobs, boost economic growth and support President Obama's National Export Initiative goal of doubling all U.S. exports by the end of 2014. ***(USDA)***

Tales from the unemployed: The 4 most common costly mistakes to avoid

By DR. STEPHEN A. LASER
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The way people react to unemployment varies from angry and frustrated to sad and depressed. A few people, however, are actually relived having suffered in unhappy job settings where they have been overworked and over-stressed by their employers who have been continuously reducing headcount. For the vast majority of people who suffer the untimely loss of a job, however, there is the immediate response to take action and go on the offensive. After all it is better to be proactive than reactive. On the other hand, looking before you leap, even if your actions seem praiseworthy, can cost you valuable time and money. Below are four common reactions to unemployment, which can prove to be very costly mistakes.

1. Suing your former employer

Perhaps, nothing seems as fulfilling as filing a law suit against your former employer. Wrongful dismissal suits comprise a large part of the dockets in civil court. Moreover, numbers of social scientists and plaintiff's attorneys have argued convincingly that we are a nation of victims. The former group is more than willing to testify in lawsuits brought by the latter group in behalf of their clients. But is a lawsuit against a former employer the best use of your time and resources?

First, lawsuits are expensive. The cost of hiring an attorney is not cheap. If you don't have the money to retain counsel, then a the attorney might take your lawsuit on contingency, which will, of course, mean less money for you if and when a final settlement is reached. Contingency lawsuits and their subsequent settlements can mean larger paydays for your lawyer and a lot less for you.

The biggest reason to avoid lawsuits is the time and psychic energy they require. Instead of focusing forward on your job search, you will be spending your time looking in the rearview mirror. Time and attention will be devoted to giving depositions, ruminating about the past wrongs against you, and rather than fully concentrating on the next steps ahead in your job search, you become fixated on getting your just rewards.

Finally, while there might be real reasons that justify undertaking a lawsuit, especially if age discrimination appears to be the basis for mass firings, remember there will probably be a stigma held against you by future employers. Prospective employers are likely to be wary of job candidates who have sought to exact a price against past employers.

2. Hiring a high-priced career coach

The recent recession, like no other before it, has spawned a cottage industry in those who are willing to help the unemployed for a fee, often a substantially large fee. Coaching is, indeed, a very valuable service for those looking to gain reemployment. However, there are ways to obtain such services at far less cost. For example, many churches and synagogues offer help for those looking for work. They run support groups and even employ—free of charge—congregants, who might work in fields related to human resources or the social services and can provide sound advice and counsel.

Moreover, there are many communities which sponsor career resource centers which offer the same advantages: low cost support groups and individualized coaching and counseling. These same community support resources do an excellent job of advising on writing resumes as well as preparing for job interviews with mock sessions and relevant role-plays

3. Paying too much for a degree or special credential

Feeling productive is very important for anyone who has spent a lifetime working hard and striving for goals. In short, high achievers want to keep active and busy. One of the first and most natural reactions to the loss of a job is to want to seek additional credentialing, whether by completing a college degree or earning an advanced degree, or enrolling a certification program to enhance your employability. There is no shortage of online degree programs offering everything for special certifications to bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. They can be extremely expensive and often require student loans carrying high rates of interest.

Before opting to return to the classroom, consider the following things. First, is there a market for the job skills you are seeking to add to your repertoire? Ask around, demand hard data and statistics from the school awarding your degree or certification. If you are able to land a job in your desired field, will it pay enough over the course of your remaining career to retire the student loans and interest you will need to enroll?

One of the best kept secrets in this country is the network of community colleges, which offers all kinds of specialty vocational training for a fraction of the cost of private schools, to include online programs. Living within the district or boundaries of a community college qualifies you for a minimal tuition payment. There are even continuing education programs offered in the evenings at many high schools in your district that provide specialized training on topics like computers and social networking as well as certain career-oriented courses.

4. Going into business for yourself or buying a business

After years of working for intolerable bosses or companies which change direction at the drop of a hat, the temptation to run your own business can very alluring. Yet, if you've never run a business before, be careful. Ask yourself, if you are willing to put in 80 hours a week, netting out less than the minimum wage when all is said and done? Do you want the responsibility of supervising other people? There are many costs to starting a new business even if you are running on a shoestring. Before you leap into entrepreneurship talk with others who have businesses similar to the one you want to open. What can you learn from them?

Many people have taken their severance or lump sum payout, or the bulk of their 401K plan to invest in a business, and then lose everything that would have constituted their nest egg for retirement. In today's difficult economy you don't want to be throwing good money after bad in a hopeless business venture. Then there are those people who wish to work with family and friends in a new business venture. Nothing can break up a good friendship or make a family get together more uncomfortable than bad blood over a business deal gone wrong.

In closing, the appeal of keeping active while unemployed is very admirable. Sitting at home and feeling sorry for yourself helps no one—you or your family. On the other hand, evaluating your alternatives in terms of the costs and benefits can save money and avoid leading to costly mistakes, which will drain the few precious financial resources you might have at this difficult time in your life.

Stephen A. Laser, PhD has over 30 years of experience as a business psychologist. He founded and manages a Chicago-based consulting firm specializing in advising clients on hiring employees and is the author of Out-of-Work and Over-40. *Over the past 10 years, Dr. Laser has been a guest speaker to various groups of unemployed individuals, typically over the age of 40, and previously taught courses in business psychology at Northwestern University, Roosevelt University and the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management. He currently resides in Chicago with his wife. For more information, visit www.laserassociates.net.*

Nation

Panetta assures Afghans of full probe into video

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pentagon leaders scrambled Thursday to contain damage from an Internet video purporting to show four Marines urinating on Taliban corpses—an act that appears to violate international laws of warfare and further strains U.S.-Afghan relations.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta called Afghan President Hamid Karzai to offer assurances of a full investigation and the top Marine general promised an internal probe as well as a criminal one. Investigators moved quickly to identify and interview at least two of the four Marines. They were members of a battalion that fought for seven months in former Taliban strongholds in southern Afghanistan.

AP

This image made on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012 from undated video posted on the Internet on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012 by a YouTube user who identified themself as "semperfiLoneVoice" shows men in U.S. Marine combat gear, standing in a semi-circle over three bodies. U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta is branding as "utterly despicable" the video purporting to show four U.S. Marines urinating on the corpses of Taliban fighters.

Their unit, the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines, returned from Helmand province to its home base at Camp Lejeune, N.C., last September. Marine officials said that a battalion officer confirmed to investigators on Thursday, based on his examination of the video, that the four men depicted urinating had been members of the battalion. Two have since moved on to other units.

As the video spread across the Internet in postings and repostings, U.S. officials joined with Afghans in calling it shocking, deplorable, inhumane and a breach of military standards of conduct. It shows men in Marine combat gear standing in a semicircle urinating on the bodies of three men in standard Afghan clothing, one whose chest was covered in blood.

It's not certain whether the dead were Taliban fighters, civilians or someone else.

The incident will likely further hurt ties with Karzai's government and complicate negotiations over a strategic partnership arrangement meant to govern the presence of U.S. troops and advisers in Afghanistan after most international combat troops withdraw by the end of 2014.

Panetta said the incident could endanger U.S.-Afghan-Taliban peace talks.

"The danger is that this kind of video can be misused in many ways to undermine what we are trying to do in Afghanistan and the possibility of reconciliation," Panetta said at Fort Bliss, Texas, adding it's important for the U.S. to move quickly to "send a clear signal to the world that the U.S. will not tolerate this kind of behavior and that is not what the U.S. is all about."

The emergence of the video comes at a delicate time in relations among the United States, Afghanistan's elected government and the Taliban insurgency fighting for both territorial control and cultural and religious preeminence in Afghanistan. The U.S. is trying to foster peace talks between the Karzai government and the Pakistan-based Taliban high command, and has made unprecedented offers to build trust with the insurgents, including the planned opening of a Taliban political office to oversee talks.

Anti-American sentiment is already on the rise in Afghanistan, especially among Afghans who have not seen improvements to their daily lives despite billions of dollars in international aid. They also have deplored the accidental killing of civilians during NATO airstrikes and argue that foreign troops have culturally offended the Afghan people, mostly when it comes to activities involving women and the Quran, the Muslim holy book.

Pentagon officials said the criminal investigation would likely look into whether the Marines violated laws of war, which include prohibitions against photographing or mishandling bodies and detainees. It also appeared to violate the U.S. Uniform Code of Military Justice, which governs conduct. Thus, some or all of the four Marines could face a military court-martial or other disciplinary action.

Karzai called the video "completely inhumane." The Afghan Defense Ministry called it "shocking." And the Taliban issued a statement accusing U.S. forces of committing numerous "indignities" against the Afghan people.

U.S. officials said a military criminal investigation was being led by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the law enforcement arm of the Navy. The Marines will do their own internal investigation.

Republicans rally around Romney after hits on Bain

GREER, S.C. (AP)—An array of Republicans and conservatives - including some of Mitt Romney's sharpest critics—rushed to the GOP presidential front-runner's defense Thursday to counter efforts to paint the former venture capitalist as a job-killer. Under fire, Romney rival Newt Gingrich tempered his attacks on Romney's tenure at the helm of Bain Capital, but Rick Perry defended his approach.

"We're disappointed" with the line of criticism, said Thomas Donohue, the head of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The business group doesn't endorse in presidential campaigns, but Donohue said: "We think Romney has had a pretty good track record. Perfect? Hell no, but damn good."

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who ran against Romney four years ago, wrote in an online letter: "It's surprising to see so many Republicans embrace that left-wing argument against capitalism." And another 2008 foe, former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, told Fox News Channel: "I'm shocked at what they are doing. I'm going to say it's ignorant. Dumb. It's building something we should be fighting - ignorance of the American economic system."

Romney's new defenders—many of whom have long histories of disagreeing with the former Massachusetts governor—argued that the attacks on his business record undermined the GOP's identity and weakened the party's chief argument against Democratic President Barack Obama, that federal intrusion has stymied the economy's recovery.

And while the latest comments were more a rejection of attacks on Romney's record at Bain than an endorsement of Romney as a candidate, they signaled a warming toward Romney by a cross-section of the GOP as his party struggles to settle on a more conservative alternative. They also signaled that attempts by Gingrich, a former House speaker, and Perry, the Texas governor, to cast Romney as a cold-blooded predator in the business world appeared to be backfiring badly—and playing right into the Romney campaign's hands.

A prominent fundraiser in South Carolina—Barry Wynn—shifted his support from Perry to Romney in light of those attacks, which he said had crossed the line in a political party that values free-market capitalism.

"I've been fighting for this cause most of my life," Wynn said. "It's like fingernails on the chalkboard. It just kind of irritated you to hear those kind of attacks."

The controversy over Romney's Bain tenure began last weekend when Gingrich, seeking a rebound for his candidacy if not revenge for attack ads that crippled his campaign in Iowa, sought to undercut the central rationale of his chief rival's candidacy—that Romney's business background made him the strongest Republican to take on Obama.

Perry, whose campaign also is in trouble, joined in.

Both are accusing Romney of being a fat-cat venture capitalist during his days running Bain, laying off workers as he restructured companies and filled his own pockets.

ACROSS THE NATION

Midwest gets first big snowstorm of warm winter

MILWAUKEE (AP)—An unusually mild winter finally gave way to the Midwest's first big snowstorm of the season Thursday, blanketing a region unfazed by a white Thanksgiving in a layer of powder and pack that forced all-too-happy snow plow drivers off their couches and into the streets. The storm dumped several inches of snow on western parts of Wisconsin and Iowa before moving eastward into Milwaukee, St. Louis and Chicago, where up to eight inches were expected to fall by Friday morning. In a typical year, such a storm would hardly register in the upper Midwest. But the atmospheric patterns, including the Pacific pattern known as La Nina, that have conspired to make this an unusually icy winter in Alaska have kept it abnormally warm in parts of the lower 48 states used to more snow.

Police: Pa. man killed 3 teens over stepsons' feud

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Police say a Philadelphia man killed three teenagers in an ambush sparked by a feud involving his stepsons. Investigators say 30-year-old Axel Barreto was arrested at a suburban motel Wednesday night. He is charged with three counts of murder and police say he is cooperating with the investigation. Authorities say Barreto fired a dozen or more shots into a car loaded with seven teenagers late Tuesday after the boys arrived for a confrontation with his stepsons. Police identified the victims as Joshua Soto and Dante Lugo, both 14, and 16-year-old Javier Orlandi. Soto and Orlandi died late Tuesday. Lugo died Wednesday night.

Missing teenager Natalee Holloway declared dead

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—The parents of Natalee Holloway looked on somberly as a judge on Thursday declared their child dead, more than six years after the American teenager vanished during a high school graduation trip to the Caribbean island of Aruba.

"We've been dealing with her death for the last six and a half years," Dave Holloway said after a brief hearing. He said the judge's order closes one chapter in a long ordeal, but added: "We've still got a long way to go to get justice."

Natalee Holloway disappeared in Aruba on May 30, 2005. The 18-year-old was last seen leaving a bar early that morning with a young Dutchman, Joran van der Sloot. Her body was never found and the ensuing searches for the young woman would reap intense media scrutiny and worldwide attention.

Thursday's hearing was scheduled long before van der Sloot—a suspect questioned in Holloway's disappearance—pleaded guilty Wednesday in Peru to the 2010 murder of a woman he met at a casino in Lima. Stephany Flores, 21, was killed five years to the day after Holloway, an 18-year-old from the wealthy Birmingham suburb of Mountain Brook, disappeared.

AP

An undated file family photo released by Marcia Twitty shows Natalee Holloway of Mountain Brook, Ala.

Shortly after Flores' death on May 30, 2010, van der Sloot told police he killed the woman in Peru in a fit of rage after she discovered on his laptop his connection to the disappearance of Holloway. Police forensic experts disputed the claim.

Dave Holloway told the judge in September he believed his daughter had died and he wanted to stop payments on her medical insurance and use her $2,000 college fund to help her younger brother.

The teen's mother originally objected, but her lawyer, Charlie DeBardeleben, said she subsequently changed her mind once she understood her husband's intentions.

Natalee Holloway's parents were divorced in 1993 and Beth Holloway sat in the back row of the courtroom, mostly staring at her hands in her lap through the hearing Thursday afternoon in a probate court in Birmingham.

Although Beth Holloway declined to speak to journalists, her attorney signaled it was a difficult moment for her to witness a judge signing the order declaring her daughter dead.

"She's ready to move on from this," DeBardeleben added.

Mark White, an attorney for Dave Holloway, told the judge just before he announced his decision, that there was no evidence that Holloway was alive.

Asia

Japan's PM reshuffles Cabinet to win tax support

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda replaced five members of his Cabinet on Friday in a bid to win more cooperation from the opposition to raise the sales tax and rein in the country's bulging fiscal deficit.

Two of the removed ministers had been censured by the opposition, including former Defense Minister Yasuo Ichikawa, who claimed he was unaware of the details of a 1995 rape of a schoolgirl by three U.S. servicemen on the island of Okinawa—an incident that continues to deeply impact local support for the large American troop presence there.

The opposition, which controls the less powerful upper house of parliament, had threatened to reject any discussion about key tax legislation unless Ichikawa was fired.

Twelve posts were unchanged, including finance and foreign minister. The 17-member Cabinet was to be formally installed later Friday in a ceremony with the emperor.

Noda, who took office in September, says Japan urgently needs to take steps to reduce its debt burden as the nation ages and its labor force shrinks, putting a greater burden on the social security and tax systems. He has promised to submit a bill in the next parliamentary session to raise the 5 percent sales tax in two stages, to 8 percent in 2014 and to 10 percent by 2015.

AP

Japan's new Consumer Affairs Minister Jin Matsubara, center, enters the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo, Friday, Jan. 13, 2012.

The reshuffle will "strengthen our government to tackle the major policy goal of social security and tax reforms," Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura said in announcing the new lineup.

Noda named Katsuya Okada, a former foreign minister, as deputy prime minister to spearhead those efforts.

Noda's public approval rating has slid below 40 percent amid resistance to raising the sales tax and a general lack of confidence in political leadership in Japan, which has seen a new prime minister every year for the past six years.

Japan's divided parliament makes it difficult for Noda to pass legislation. The tax issue has also divided the ruling Democratic party, with powerbroker Ichiro Ozawa and his supporters arguing that raising taxes would hurt the already weak economy.

Noda has said his government's priorities also include leading reconstruction efforts after last March's devastating tsunami and bringing "rebirth" to the area around the stricken Fukushima nuclear plant. The government declared a month ago that the plant is essentially stable despite widespread skepticism, with experts warning it remains vulnerable to earthquakes.

The new defense minister, Naoki Tanaka, is a relative of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, one of Japan's most powerful politicians who was felled by a corruption scandal. He is replacing Ichikawa, who had boasted that his lack of experience with security issues would allow him to view them with a fresh perspective.

Ichikawa's claim of ignorance about the Okinawa rape case complicated already-stalled efforts to move an important U.S. Marine base which is a key element in Washington's plans to restructure its forces in Asia.

Jin Matsubara will replace consumer affairs minister Kenji Yamaoka, who was censured for making comments in support of a pyramid marketing scheme, perceived as shady in Japan. He was also criticized for reportedly comparing the collapse of the euro to the tsunami, which was deemed insensitive to the victims of that disaster.

A Kyodo News agency poll on Jan. 7-8 showed public support for Noda's Cabinet fell to 35.7 percent from 44.6 percent in December, with three-quarters of respondents citing an insufficient explanation of the tax hike plan. However, some experts say such polls—and by extension the media—wield too much influence in determining a prime minister's longevity.

They say the absolute nature of the polls' top question—do you approve of the Cabinet's performance, yes or no—makes it very hard for leaders to stay popular. If people are the least bit dissatisfied with the government, it's easy to respond in the negative, they say.

Official: NKorea test-fired short-range missiles

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired three short-range missiles this week in an apparent routine test of its technology, a South Korean official said Friday.

The North fired the KN-02 missiles, which are usually deployed against ground targets and have a range of about 75 miles (120 kilometers), into its eastern waters on Wednesday, a Defense Ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of ministry policy.

Japan's Sankei Shimbun newspaper first reported the tests.

North Korea regularly conducts short-range missile tests, but the latest came as it tries to consolidate new leader Kim Jong Un's grip on power after his father Kim Jong Il's death on Dec. 17.

North Korea has made it clear that it will continue Kim Jong Il's "songun," or military-first, policy under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, and a steady stream of propaganda has sought to portray the young leader as a confident military commander. There has been uneasiness about his rise among the North's neighbors and in Washington.

North Korea conducted a short-range missile test hours after it announced Kim's death on Dec. 19.

Wednesday's tests were seen as part of the North's attempts in recent years to improve the range and accuracy of its short-range missiles.

"If the North wanted to send a message, it would have fired a greater number of longer-range missiles," said Kim Jin-moo, a North Korea expert at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses in South Korea.

Myanmar frees many prominent political prisoners

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar freed many of its most prominent political prisoners Friday in a long-awaited step toward national reconciliation that also has been a key condition set by Western nations for easing sanctions against the country.

The releases of several political activists and ethnic minority leaders, confirmed by their relatives, were part of a presidential pardon for 651 detainees who Myanmar state radio and television said would take part in "nation-building."

It was the latest in a flurry of reforms by the new, nominally civilian government as it seeks international legitimacy after years of military repression. The government also has launched a dialogue with pro-democracy leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, and on Thursday signed a cease-fire in a decades-long insurgency by ethnic Karen rebels—both key conditions for better ties with the West.

The prisoner releases appeared to have gone most, if not all, of the way toward meeting demands by Western nations such as the United States and Britain for a broad political amnesty, and will put strong pressure on the West to lift sanctions soon.

However, the number of political prisoners who may still remain behind bars will likely take several days to account for, especially since different groups maintain different lists of such detainees.

Those freed Friday included Min Ko Naing, a nearly legendary student leader from Myanmar's failed 1988 pro-democracy uprising.

Witnesses said the charismatic activist was greeted by a huge crowd as he came out of the jail in Thayet, 545 kilometers (345 miles) north of Yangon. Min Ko Naing, who has now served two long prison terms, was wearing the traditional garb he favored as an activist: a short peach-colored jacket over a black-checked sarong.

Also freed was ethnic leader Khun Tun Oo, the chairman of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, who was serving a 93-year sentence. He was arrested along with several other Shan leaders in February 2005, and charged with high treason and other offenses after government accused him of launching movements to disintegrate national unity.

The new government that took office after November 2010 elections replaced a military junta with a government that remains strongly linked to the military.

However, the new government has embarked on reforms to try to end Myanmar's international isolation and win a lifting of political and economic sanctions imposed on the previous junta because of its repressive policies.

Recent reforms also include the legalization of labor unions, and increases in press freedom. Several previous mass amnesties for convicts had resulted in the release of more than 200 political detainees, but had met with disappointment because many high-profile prisoners were still kept behind bars.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan president 'not worried' about crisis

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A spokesman for Pakistan's president says the leader has returned from Dubai and is not worried about a political crisis gripping the country. President Asif Ali Zardari went to Dubai Thursday for a one-day personal trip. He traveled last month to Dubai for medical reasons, triggering widely reported rumors he was on the verge of resigning. Tensions between the government and the army have risen in recent days, with some people speculating the Zardari-led government maybe on its way out.

Candidates make final push ahead of Taiwan vote

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Candidates in Taiwan's closely fought presidential election are crisscrossing the island to appeal for last-minute support. President Ma Ying-jeou and opposition leader Tsai Ing-wen offered their competing visions Friday for Taiwan's future. The election Saturday pits Ma's policy of improved relations with China against Tsai's attempts to galvanize resentment over growing economic inequality.

Australian sentenced to Saudi lashing returns home

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—An Australian man who received 75 lashes in Saudi Arabia after being convicted of blasphemy has returned home. Mansor Almaribe of southern Victoria state arrived back in Australia on Friday. He told reporters he was happy to be home but was tired after his ordeal. Almaribe was detained in the city of Medina in November while making the Muslim pilgrimage of hajj. Family members say Saudi officials accused him of insulting the companions of the Prophet Muhammad. That is considered a violation of Saudi Arabia's strict blasphemy laws.

World

Iranian leader meets Fidel Castro

HAVANA (AP)—Two of Washington's top irritants, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Fidel Castro, discussed world events for two hours, and the Iranian leader on Thursday described the retired Cuban revolutionary as healthy and engaged, and declared their two countries to be allies "fighting on the same front."

"It made me enormously happy to see the comandante healthy and fit," Ahmadinejad said through a translator at an impromptu airport appearance alongside Fidel's brother, Cuban President Raul Castro, before flying off to Ecuador for the final stop in his four-nation Latin America visit.

Raul said his 85-year-old brother and Ahmadinejad met for two hours Wednesday, "a demonstration that his brain is working very well." Fidel Castro stepped down in 2006 due to an illness that nearly killed him, but continues to write essays on world events.

One of his main themes has been warning that a conflict pitting the U.S. and Israel against Iran could lead the world toward nuclear Armageddon. Iranian officials last year said they welcomed Castro's support, but did not share his apocalyptic concerns, arguing the West would not dare attack.

Raul Castro and the Iranian president also held a late-night meeting Wednesday, discussing bilateral relations and world events.

"We have common positions on many things," Ahmadinejad said. "We have been, are and will be together one with the other."

Ahmadinejad took no questions about tensions between his country and Washington over Iran's nuclear program, and did not comment on the assassination Wednesday of a nuclear scientist working at Iran's main uranium enrichment facility.

Iran's government blamed the killing on Israel, the U.S. and Britain. The U.S. denied involvement.

Ahmadinejad began his Latin America trip shortly after Washington imposed tougher sanctions on Tehran over the nuclear program. He spent less than 24 hours in Cuba, following visits to Venezuela and Nicaragua.

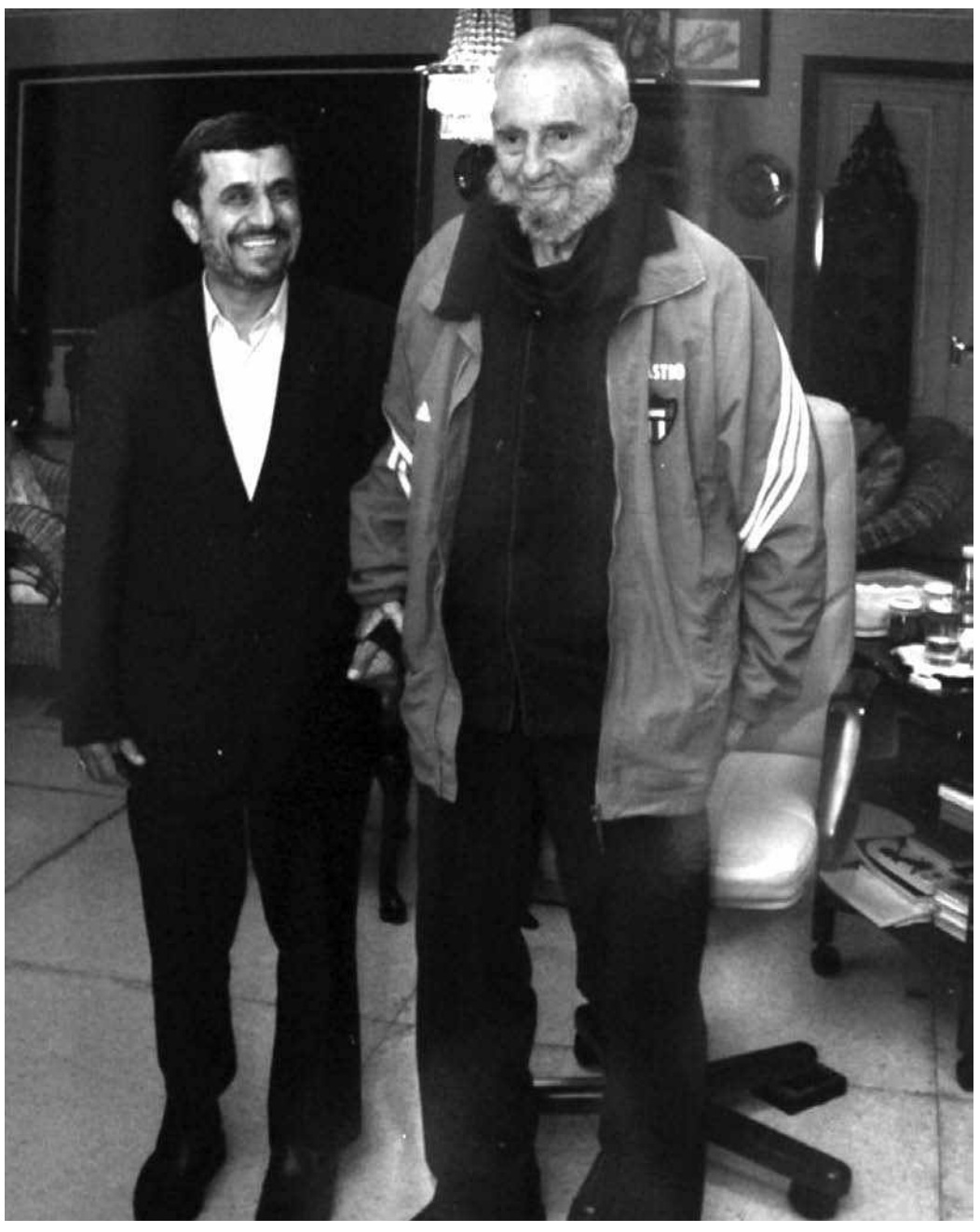
In Ecuador, Ahmadinejad got a bear hug from President Rafael Correa, who last received the Iranian president during his 2007 inauguration and visited Tehran the following year. The two dined at the presidential palace and waved to hundreds of Ecuadorean from its balcony, where a big Iranian flag flew.

The Iranian president thanked Correa for his solidarity and said that "the era of imperialism and global arrogance are exhausted."

The president of Quito's chamber of commerce, Blasco Penaherrera, criticized the visit, calling the foreign policy of Ecuador's leftist president irresponsible.

"It's going to make it much more difficult to make progress with our principal market, the United States," he said.

Iran opened an embassy in Ecuador in 2008. Trade between the two nations has been meager.



AP

In this photo released on Thursday Jan. 12, 2012 by Cuba's presidency via Cubadebate Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, left, meets Cuban leader Fidel Castro in Havana Wednesday Jan. 11, 2012.

Crude rises as Nigeria strike threat looms

HONG KONG (AP)—Oil prices rose to near $100 a barrel in Asia on Friday as negotiations to avert a looming strike in major oil producer Nigeria ended for the day without any result.

Prices also rose as worries built up again about supply tightness this year following a sharp dip late Thursday on word that Iranian oil would not soon be forced off European markets.

Benchmark crude for February delivery rose 76 cents to $99.86 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell sharply just before close Thursday in New York, settling $2 lower at $99.10, after a report that the European Union probably would not embargo Iranian oil until summer.

Brent crude rose 76 cents to $111.81 per barrel in London.

Oil prices climbed as talks between union officials and Nigeria's government ended late Thursday night without any announcement. They are scheduled to resume Saturday.

A major union is threatening to halt crude oil production as part of a nationwide strike and protests starting Sunday in Nigeria - the fifth-largest oil exporter to the U.S.—that is raising anxiety in worldwide oil markets.

Analysts said oil supply would be crimped in the short term if unions manage to shut down production.

Crude prices have also been pushed up recently by pressure from the U.S on other nations to ban Iranian oil quickly in response to Iran's growing nuclear program. But an official close to the talks said Thursday that the European Union probably will not embargo Iranian oil until summer. The EU is expected to make a decision on an oil embargo at a Jan. 23 meeting.

Balanced against that were optimistic comments by the European Central Bank and good results from bond auctions by Spain and Italy that helped push up risk appetite among traders because they were a sign of improving economic prospects that could result in higher demand for oil, analysts said.

"The indications are for tight oil markets, so I think the prices only dropped off (Thursday) because of that report" about the delayed European embargo, said Natalie Robertson, a commodities analyst at ANZ Bank in Melbourne, Australia.

"I think oil should continue to be supported going forward because we also have a general view that the U.S. dollar is going to remain weak," which makes commodities priced in dollars appear cheaper for those spending other currencies, Robertson said.

In other Nymex trading, heating oil rose rose 2.2 cents to $3.08 per gallon and gasoline futures added 2.7 cents at $2.76 per gallon. Natural gas futures were down 1.3 cents to $2.69 per 1,000 cubic feet.

2nd try to extradite Mexican accused narco denied

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A Mexican federal judge on Thursday rejected a second attempt to extradite an alleged drug trafficker to the U.S., nearly exhausting yearslong efforts by both nations to convict a woman known as the "Queen of the Pacific."

Judge Jesus Chavez ruled that Sandra Avila Beltran would face the same charges in Florida on which she was acquitted in Mexico.

Chavez said the core of a 2004 indictment against Avila in the Southern District of Florida is the seizure of more than nine tons of U.S.-bound cocaine on Mexico's west coast.

A Mexican judge acquitted Avila in December 2010 of charges stemming from the same confiscation of drugs off a vessel nine years earlier in the port of Manzanillo. An appeals court upheld that verdict last August.

"It is impossible to say the actions related to the more than nine tons of cocaine discovered in the vessel would not be subject of the foreign trial for which U.S. officials seek the defendant," Chavez said, according to a news statement.

In the U.S., Avila was indicted on two conspiracy charges to import and distribute cocaine and has been wanted since November 2007, two months after her arrest in Mexico.

The judge said Mexico's constitution prohibits double jeopardy and thus prevents extraditing a citizen for trial in another country on charges they already faced at home.

Officials from the Foreign Relations Department and Mexican Attorney General's office declined to comment, saying they were studying the decision. Both can contest it, but the next outcome by an appeals court would be final.

A Mexican appeals panel rejected a first U.S. extradition request on the same grounds.

Avila remains in a western Mexico prison in the state of Nayarit, pending trial for a separate money-laundering charge. Mexican officials did not reveal her lawyer's identity.

Avila has claimed she is innocent and says she made her money selling clothes and renting houses.

When she was arrested in 2007 sipping coffee in a Mexico City diner, prosecutors alleged that Avila spent more than a decade working her way to the top of Mexico's drug trade, seducing several notorious kingpins and uniting Colombian and Mexican gangs.

Avila's romance with Colombian Juan Diego Espinoza Ramirez brought together Mexico's powerful Sinaloa cartel with Colombia's Norte del Valle, prosecutors said. Espinoza was extradited to Florida in December 2008, two years before he was found not guilty on charges in Mexico related to the cocaine shipment.

Avila is the niece of Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo, "the godfather" of Mexican drug smuggling who is serving a 40-year sentence in Mexico for trafficking and the murder of DEA agent Enrique Camarena in Mexico's western Jalisco state.

WORLD BRIEFS

No new offers from Israel, Abbas says

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Israel has made no new proposals in meetings with Palestinians about the possibility of resuming formal peace talks, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Thursday. The sides met twice so far in Jordan, and two more meetings are set for Saturday and for Jan. 25, Abbas told members of his Fatah movement. Abbas has said he will not resume negotiations unless Israel freezes settlement construction and accepts the pre-1967 Mideast War frontier as the baseline for a future border. Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in that war, and the Palestinians seek those territories for their state, but are ready for minor land swaps.

Mexico expects millions to visit for 2012 solstice

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Tourism officials said Thursday that 2012 will be a special year for Mexico, even though they don't expect the world to end Dec. 21. The Tourism Department says it will spend $8 million promoting tourism to the "Mayan World," the southeast Mexico region where the Mayan culture thrived. The area extends into Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Doomsday prognosticators' belief that the Maya predicted the end of the world for December 2012 has brought attention to one of Mexico's great cultures. Officials reject the prediction but hope the attention will draw tourists.

YoungStyle

AP

In this Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012 photo, Shannon Patterson, right, and her husband Rich Patterson watch their daughter Sophie Patterson, 4 and a half, as she plays with a Chinese Lion Dance toy at their home in Vancouver, B.C. Lunar New Year, which reunites families around the world, does the same for the Pattersons. They take in Vancouver's Chinese New Year parade and share dim sum with six other local families with whom they traveled to China to pick up their babies.

Adopted kids mini-ambassadors come Lunar New Year

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—With its fireworks, family reunions and feasts, Lunar New Year is the longest and most important celebration for millions around the world.

For kids adopted from China, it holds special meaning. Lunar New Year makes them mini-ambassadors of a culture they know little about firsthand.

There's no official handbook on how far parents of internationally adopted children should go to celebrate their kids' birth cultures, but marking Lunar New Year—Year of the Dragon begins Jan. 23—is usually one of those times for Asian children.

Their parents decorate front doors, throw dumpling-making parties and stuff red envelopes with money. They clean their homes at the start of the 15-day celebration and hang red lanterns at the finish. Others keep it simple, sharing dim sum with friends at a restaurant or watching dragons dancing at parades in Chinese enclaves in their cities and towns.

The approach shifts and changes as their children grow. Some question whether they've done enough. Some do nothing at all.

"In south Louisiana, we're definitely ambassadors to the Chinese culture," said Jan Risher in Lafayette. She and her husband have a 10-year-old from China.

"When she was younger, I tried to do more of the outward Chinese cultural things, like decorations and cooking specific dumplings," Risher said. "But now that she's a little older, we mainly talk about China, its history and customs, and even its politics so that she can try and wrap her head around why she's here. She's a deep thinker."

Karen Burgers in northern New Jersey has two girls from China, ages 10 and 5. They wear silk Chinese dresses and nibble vegetable lo mein, oranges and fortune cookies she brings in to school for the new year.

"I've certainly failed to promote an authentic experience," Burgers said, "but the children get the gist, enjoy the festivity and learn a little about the culture."

Rich Patterson and his wife are in Vancouver, British Columbia, home to a Chinese New Year parade that drew more than 50,000 people last year. The holiday, which reunites families around the world, does the same for the Pattersons.

They take in the parade and share dim sum with six other local families with whom they traveled to China to pick up their babies. Patterson's daughter is now 4 1/2.

"This year, as a first, we fused Christmas decorations with Chinese New Year decorations at our daughter's request," he said.

That meant a bright red and yellow dragon was nestled in Christmas garland front and center above their mantel.

The symbolism and superstitions surrounding the new year are steeped in more than 5,000 years of Chinese history. Here's a sampler of popular customs among parents looking to celebrate the birth cultures of their adopted kids.

CHINESE ZODIAC

The dragon is the fifth and mightiest position in the Chinese Zodiac. For adopted kids, knowing one's birth animal is a casual connection, though the convoluted zodiac includes many other elements taken far more seriously in Asia.

"My kids love to hear about the Chinese Zodiac," said Heather Mayes Gleason in Takoma Park, Md. She has a 5-year-old girl from China and a biological 3-year-old son.

"With Chinese adoption, you know very little about your child's history, but you create their future. And I guess that is really what Chinese New Year is about," Gleason said.

CLEANING HOUSE

Before the new year, sweep away any bad luck from the previous year. Hair is cut before the new year and children wear new clothes to represent a new beginning.

For Myra Cocca in central Indiana, it's harder as her kids have grown older and busier to observe the traditions they loved when they were small. Her son, adopted from South Korea, is now 11. When he was little, she dressed him in a traditional garment called a hanbok for new year's. Today, "sometimes we're not home during the holiday, so we have not always marked the occasion," she said.

RED

The color is prominent in banners bearing holiday sayings in Chinese letters and decorative paper cutouts placed on doors and windows to scare away evil spirits and bad luck, along with gold and orange to symbolize wealth and happiness in the year to come. Lucky red envelopes with crisp new bills are given to children. Some parents slip in candy instead. Risher has taken the color red further than most: "I've given everyone in my family red underwear!"

DUMPLINGS

Crescent-shaped dumplings are eaten ahead of New Year's Day in China. In northern China, they are prepared for midnight nibbling the night before. The shape evokes coins in ancient China and eating the dumplings is a bid for good financial tidings.

How does Piper, Risher's 10-year-old, feel about dumplings and celebrating the new year? "I come from China and it's important to me that our family still celebrates some of my culture, too," she said. "That's where I'm from."

LONG NOODLES

The longer the better to foster a long life. New year's food traditions vary widely around the world, but main dishes of fish, duck or chicken are prepared whole because using scissors and knives is considered unlucky. That means pasta is uncut. It's become a rallying cry for some in the adoption community: "Long noodles, long life!"

FIREWORKS

Many ancient beliefs exist about why fireworks play a major role in the new year. One is that loud noise scares away evil spirits and bad luck. That's why Burgers brings sheets of bubble wrap to her kids' school. "The bubble wrap is loudly stomped upon as the children parade around the room wearing a dragon head costume."

LANTERN FESTIVAL

The 15th day of the new year is marked by parties where decorative red lanterns are hung indoors and out. Lantern making projects are a cottage industry for adoptive families online.

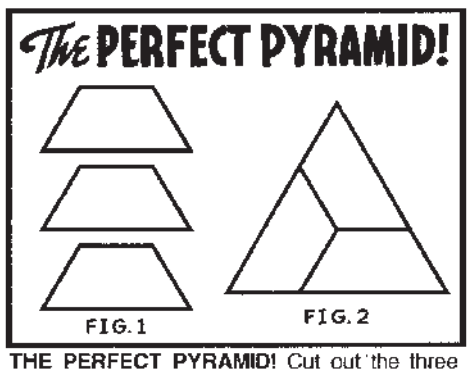
Kate Eastman and her husband recently moved from Maine to Anacortes, Wash., so their 9-year-old daughter from China could be closer to authentic Asian influences within an hour's travel to Vancouver or Seattle. Lantern making is one of those things they love to do.

Cali's room is also full of Chinese dolls, books and other reminders of her heritage.

"It's a learning process and we follow Cali's lead," Eastman said. "It's complex, for sure, and what makes it even more complex is how your child wants to observe each year and how much she wants to think of herself as Chinese or not. That's always evolving and changing."

For now, Mom said, "at 9 years old, she's proud to refer to herself as Chinese American, and we're equally proud of her for that."

THE PERFECT PYRAMID!



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THE PERFECT PYRAMID! Cut out the three puzzle pieces in fig. 1 and challenge your friends to arrange them to form a perfect pyramid. The answer to this tricky triangle is shown in fig. 2.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

Illustrated by David Coulson

1.	A							S
2.		L					M	
3.			P			E		
4.				H	L			
5.				B	A			
6.			O			B		
7.		R					E	
8.	P							T

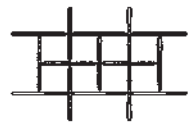
FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Using the definitions and the anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

DEFINITION:	ANAGRAM:
1. He had a foot problem.	case + hill
2. A cluster of flowers.	slob + moss
3. Devotees of modern jazz.	rest + ship
4. Having no pity.	hurl + sets
5. Eccentric people.	sold + bald
6. An ancient weapon.	sobs + crow
7. A racing fool.	tars + dreg
8. A gradual discontinuation.	soup + heat

Answers: 1. Achilles. 2. Blossoms. 3. Hipsters. 4. Ruthless. 5. Oddballs. 6. Crossbow. 7. Dragster. 8. Phaseout.

A CLEVER WAGER! Place 15 toothpicks on the table and challenge your friends to arrange them so that they form eight squares, all of equal size. No square can be formed inside another, and no toothpick can overlap another or be broken. The solution is pictured to the right.



FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "WALLET." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. Time limit: 60 seconds.

W		A	M
A			E
L		E	
L	N	E	
E			
T			

Answers: (Across) Lam, ale, wee, net. (Down) Lawn, alee, meet.

Animal advocates

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I recently read on your website about a North Carolina county board that wanted to disallow adoptions of certain dog breeds from its shelter. The proposal was defeated thanks to a huge public outcry, but what about other rulings that don't get as much publicity? How do we find out about them, and how can we get enough public support to stop unfair pet laws?—Jane in Missouri

DEAR JANE: It's great that you're concerned and want to be more active in the area of pet legislation. The North Carolina case was a classic example of legislators (or in this case, a county board) proposing pet laws based upon popular but often inaccurate information, particularly about "bully breeds" (pit bulls, Doberman pinschers, etc). The county board shelved its proposal after receiving tens of thousands of emails and facing a packed house of dog owners, rescuers and other advocates at its board meeting.

Getting started can be as simple as an Internet search. Major organizations such as the Humane Society of the United States, the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) and growing organizations like the No-Kill Advocacy Center are good websites to start with. You often can find local chapters or local advocacy organizations through larger nonprofits' websites.

Facing down local legislators is just one facet of animal advocacy. If you want to learn more about protecting pets, pick up "Defending the Defenseless: A Guide to Protecting and Advocating for Pets," by Allie Phillips (Rowman and Littlefield). Phillips is an attorney and animal-rights advocate, and her book is packed with information on ways you can become more active.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ During this election season, it might be good to keep in mind the following sage observation, made by beloved humorist Will Rogers: "The American people are generous and will forgive almost any weakness with the exception of stupidity."

■ Mountain goats aren't actually goats; they're antelopes.

■ Those who study such things say that a mosquito flaps its wings 1,000 times every second.

■ If you've ever been to London—or if you've seen a movie that was set there—you might remember the iconic black taxicabs that are ubiquitous in that city; the high roofs set them apart from other vehicles on the streets. The headroom offered did once serve a purpose. When the cars were originally designed, top hats were still de rigueur for a properly dressed gentleman, and the high roofs allowed a man so attired to enter and leave the vehicle without knocking off his hat.

■ You might be surprised to learn that some ants can live more than 15 years.

■ Yes, there's a name for it. The next time you're opening a bottle of wine, take a moment to consider the spiral part that is inserted into the cork: It's known as a worm.

■ Washington is the only U.S. state named for a president.

■ Celebrated 19th-century French poet Arthur Rimbaud wrote for only a few short years in his late teens. Despite critical success, he gave up writing when he was 20 years old and spent the rest of his life as a soldier and a merchant.

■ In medieval Japan, dentists removed patients' teeth with their bare hands.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Television news is like a lightning flash. It makes a loud noise, lights up everything around it, leaves everything else in darkness and then is suddenly gone."—Hodding Carter

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MAGIC MAZE ● WORDS WITH BIG TEETH AND A LONG TAIL

C R O T A G O R R A J H E C A
R Y O E D A R O T A G A D N I
M O W T V T T R A P R N R Y I
L I T K A A I B G E O O Y R C
B Z T A G G R E G A T O R O R
X W U I G O I S R A A I O T O
P O M M G I L V G J G I T A T
G U E A D A T I A A E B A G A
F A T Y X W T S T N L U G R G
T O S Q P I O O A N E L E U A
R K J H L G R F R C D D N P V

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Abrogator, Aggregator, Arrogator, Castigator, Delegator, Fumigator, Indagator, Irrigator, Legator, Litigator, Mitigator, Navigator, Negatory, Purgatory, Vagator

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	×		+		17
×		÷		+	
	−		×		27
−		+		+	
	+		+		16
2		10		22	

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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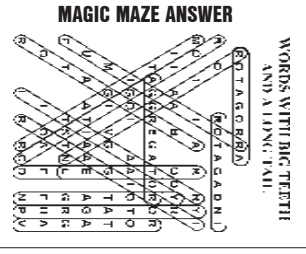
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

17	×	8	+	9	1
	+		÷		×
27	9	×	3	−	6
	+		+		−
16	5	+	7	+	4
	+		+		2

Make a family of readers in 2012

When I go to a friend's house, I'm always scouting out the bookshelves or poking through piles of reading material on the coffee table or kitchen counter. It's not that I'm that nosy, but I've discovered that I get to know my friends a little better when I see what they enjoy reading.

What makes for a good book, newspaper or magazine, anyway? Each can be the promise of adventure, another point of view, a giggle, an alternative way of thinking.

I especially love books that grab both myself and the child I'm reading with. If you popped by my house right now, you would find the striking, newly released "Puff, the Magic Dragon Pop-Up Book" (Sterling Children's Books) on my end table. Paper engineer Bruce Foster animates the timeless lyrics page by page with amazing creativity. And when I joyfully share it with a child, I play the accompanying CD sung by Peter Yarrow of the familiar song I've known since childhood as we turn the pages and travel with Jackie Paper and Puff to the land of Honalee.

Surely reading good books can enrich us all, no matter our age. But the extra benefits to kids go beyond the printed page. Watch children with a new book as they turn pages with anticipation and scan for things that surprise and intrigue them. Diane Lemke, an elementary principal and curriculum director, believes that reading is the river that runs throughout education and, ultimately, life.

"The innately tactile nature of children is rewarded by practice interacting with covers and pages, eye-catching colors, pictures and letters in all shapes and sizes," she says. "Books are like packages with interesting contents of patterns and sounds. When positive adult touch is paired with book time, a message is translated about the specialness of written words."

As you turn the calendar to 2012, and you feel from time to time you aren't offering your children or grandkids enough food for thought or possibilities for learning, crack open a book together. Discover how books can unlock a world of thinking and learning in an enriched year of family reading and storytelling.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

When should you sweat foggy windows?

By ALAN J. HEAVENS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

You may think I'm all wet, but I've decided to talk about condensation, only because I receive a lot of questions about foggy windows in the winter.

Apparently, I'm not the only one.

"We often get calls from homeowners who are concerned that their windows are 'sweating' or leaking either inside or outside the home because they see moisture on the glass," said Christopher Burk, technical product manager at Simonton Windows in Columbus, Ohio.

That's simply not the case.

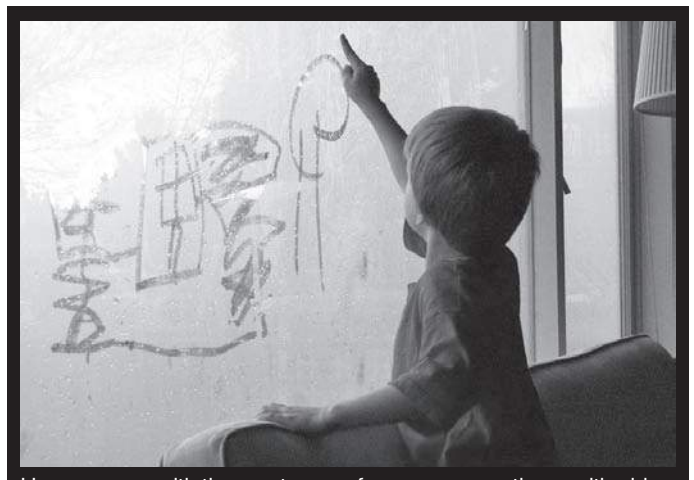
"While condensation may collect on the interior or exterior of energy-efficient windows, the units are really doing their job by helping serve as a barrier in the home," Burk said.

Windows don't cause condensation. They just prevent the moisture in the home from escaping to the outside.

"If the inside glass surface on double- or triple-glazed windows show excessive moisture, you can be reasonably sure that the moisture is also collecting on your walls and ceilings," Burk said. "This means you should take steps to reduce the humidity level in your home by using exhaust fans and dehumidifiers."

A lot of the water vapor is created by the inhabitants.

A family of four can add a half pint of water vapor every hour to the home just through normal breathing and perspiration. And, if you take a five-minute shower, you produce another half pint of water vapor. Even the simple act of cooking dinner on a gas stove can produce two and a half pints of water vapor.


Homeowners with the most cause for concern are those with older, less efficient windows.

Water vapor is part of our lives and our homes. To help control the amount of condensation in the home, experts at Simonton Windows recommend the following tips:

- Use kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans.
- If you have a humidifier, set it to the correct outside temperature.
- If your home is overly humid, or if you have a damp basement, use a dehumidifier.
- Properly vent clothes dryers, gas appliances and stoves.
- Open a window in the bathroom.
- Make sure your attic, basement and crawl spaces are well-ventilated and free from obstructions.
- Store firewood outside. Freshly cut wood can consist of up to 45 percent water, which adds water vapor to the home. Even well-seasoned firewood generally has a 20 percent to 25 percent moisture content.
- Open curtains and blinds to allow more air circulation around your windows.

Homeowners with the most cause for concern are those with older, less efficient windows.

"Windows are just like any other major part of the home," Burk said. "They wear out over time and need to be replaced. If your windows have air leaks, don't close properly, or are failing to act as a solid barrier to the environment, then it's time to consider replacing them with energy-efficient windows."

Burk also recommends knowing the difference between condensation on the glass and between the glass panes of the window.

"If you see moisture, fogging or cloudiness between the panes of glass in your window, this indicates that the seal of your window has failed and it's time to get a new window," Burk said.

"Failed seals lack the energy efficiency and features necessary to help you keep energy bills low and enjoy comfortable living in your home," he said.

"While condensation on the interior or exterior of the glass is manageable, moisture between the glass needs swift attention by homeowners," according to Burk.

Some ideas from Emerson Corp.

Heating and cooling systems use more energy than electronics, appliances and lighting combined.

Over the next 10 years, as older HVAC systems are replaced with newer, higher efficiency equipment, consumers will likely realize energy cost savings of more than $30 billion vs. what they are paying today.

In a September 2011 Emerson survey, the majority of consumers surveyed have made only small home energy upgrades such as installing a programmable thermostat or switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Questions? E-mail Alan J. Heavens at aheavens@phillynews.com or write him at The Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia PA 19101.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Stovetop Chili

A quick weeknight chili that's packed with buttery black soy beans, tender-crisp green beans and melt-in-your-mouth sweet potatoes. Serve with a chunk of warm corn bread.

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
2 tablespoons chili powder
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon ground coriander
2 cloves garlic, crushed with garlic press
1 jalapeno chile, seeded and minced
1 can (28 ounces) whole tomatoes in juice
1/2 pound green beans, trimmed and each cut crosswise in half
3 (about 1 1/2 pounds) medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1 1/2-inch chunks
1 teaspoon sugar
1 teaspoon salt
2 cans (15 ounces) black soy beans, rinsed and drained, substitute black beans
Sour cream (optional)

1 In nonstick 5-quart to 6-quart Dutch oven, heat oil over medium heat until hot. Add onion and cook 10 minutes or until tender, stirring occasionally.

2 Add chili powder, cumin, coriander, garlic and jalapeno, and cook 1 minute, stirring. Add tomatoes with their juice, green beans, sweet potatoes, sugar, salt and 2 cups water; heat to boiling over medium-high heat, breaking up tomatoes with side of spoon.

3 Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 25 minutes or until sweet potatoes are tender, stirring occasionally. Add soybeans and cook 2 minutes longer to heat through. Serve with sour cream, if you like.

■ Each serving: About 275 calories, 5g total fat (1g saturated), 0mg cholesterol, 635mg sodium, 45g carbohydrate, 11g dietary fiber, 14g protein.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

Termite troubles

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: What do I need to look for when checking around my house for termites?—Jason in Tampa, Fla.

A: Inspecting your home for termite infestation on a regular basis can make a big difference in the amount you'd have to pay to eradicate them, should there be a problem. Most homeowners aren't able to decisively confirm that a termite infestation exists, but there are telltale signs to watch for:

■ Dirt tunnels on the house's masonry foundation and on pipes traveling through the foundation.

■ Crumbly areas inside masonry cracks or holes.

■ Small dirt-like formations inside cracks or holes. These could be termite nests.

■ In wooden areas of the house, especially those close to the ground, look for rotten or decayed spots. Use a pocketknife to poke into the spot; if it penetrates a half-inch or more, you might have a termite problem.

If you notice any of these suspicious signs, contact an exterminator to do a more thorough inspection of your house and start treating for termites. Be sure to get a written estimate of the work to be done before allowing the exterminator to start treatment.

How do you prevent termites? In addition to scheduling a professional inspection and preventive treatment once per year, keep moisture from affecting the house—particularly at the foundation. Don't allow standing water near the foundation. If that's a problem after rains, improve drainage away from the area. Trim back hedges and plants to about 1 foot from the foundation so pests can't work their way into the house from them. Fill and seal cracks in outside masonry.

HOME TIP: If termites are a big problem in your area, talk to a contractor about installing a sand barrier around your home's foundation, a method that will discourage the pests from getting into your house.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Get cracking on that list of things to organize

By MARY BETH BRECKENRIDGE
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Chances are good that getting organized was on your list of New Year's resolutions.

Congratulations. At least you were organized enough to make a list.

Now, let's make sure you keep that promise to yourself.

Over the years, I've been fortunate enough to interview and learn from some of the best organizers in the business, and I've picked up some useful tips and tricks along the way. I'm sharing some of my favorites today in the hope they'll help you organize your way to a more serene 2012.

■ Organizing is about changing behavior, not buying stuff.

Stores seduce us this time of year with displays of bins and drawer dividers and file boxes, but resist the urge to buy them in the misguided belief that they'll make you organized. They won't, at least not by themselves. To get organized, you need to create a system and then stick to it.

Instead of rushing out to the store in the first flush of organizing fever, spend some time getting rid of what you don't need and figuring out how you're going to use and store the rest. Once you know exactly what you have and what you need, you can buy or make organizing tools that support your system and fit your space.

■ Mom was right: A place for everything, and everything in its place.

Clutter results from indecision, and indecision results from not having thought through how to handle the stuff that's an inevitable part of our lives. If you create a place for the bills and the scissors and your committee's meeting minutes, you're more likely to put them where they belong instead of leaving them lying around. And when you need them, you'll be able to find them.

■ Organized does not mean neat and tidy.

I got this little gem from Chris Perrow of Perrow Systems in Stow, Ohio, and I found it freeing. Organization, she says, is simply being able to find what you want when you want it.

It's OK if your receipts are jumbled in a shoebox instead of arranged neatly in folders, or your rolls of gift-wrapping ribbon are kept in a plastic bin instead of being threaded onto a hanging rod and grouped by color. As long as you can find what you need quickly and without a lot of effort, you're organized.

■ Keep a family binder. This suggestion came from organizing guru Deniece Schofield, who's known for making organization simple and achievable.

Schofield recommends getting a three-ring binder to keep all the papers your family needs—things like sports schedules, school calendars and committee rosters. Use dividers to sort the papers into categories, and consider investing in a box of plastic sheet protectors to hold the papers so you don't have to drag out the paper punch every time you want to add something to the binder. I even bought a few business-card sleeves to hold the cards of the contractors and service providers my family uses, and that alone has saved me untold time and aggravation.

■ If you use a desktop file system to organize the papers you use often, choose one that holds the file folders vertically rather than horizontally. You'd be surprised how much more likely you are to put papers into their proper place if you can just drop them into the top of a folder rather than taking out the folder, opening it and putting it back.

■ Over-the-door shoe organizers aren't just for shoes. I have one in my coat closet, and I store all our hats, gloves and scarves in its pockets. I've also seen them used for clothing accessories such as scarves and belts, and the kind with see-through plastic pockets are great for small toys, sewing accessories, craft supplies, hardware and similar items.

■ Know the difference between needs and wants. That advice, from author and organizer Jennifer Lovins, might just be the most important tip I've learned.

Whenever you see something you're tempted to buy, ask yourself whether you really need it. If the answer is no, think twice about how badly you really want it. That thing is probably going to become clutter, and clutter just makes our lives more stressful.

Who needs that?

Life & Style

Perry, 'Potter' win big at People's Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Katy Perry is in the popular clique now.

The singer-actress won the most People's Choice Awards at Wednesday's 38th annual fan-favorite extravaganza, but viewers wouldn't have known it from watching the ceremony. An absentee Perry was honored in five categories, including favorite female artist, tour headliner, song of the year for "E.T." with Kanye West, music video for "Last Friday Night" and TV guest star for "How I Met Your Mother."

Despite originally being touted by the show's organizers as among the nominees expected to attend, Perry told fans on Twitter earlier this week that she wouldn't make it to the show but that "I want to thank u all for voting for me, fingers crossed!" It would have marked Perry's first public appearance since British actor-comedian Russell Brand filed for divorce from Perry last month after 14 months of marriage.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," the final installment of the magical film series starring Daniel Radcliffe, followed behind Perry with four wins for favorite movie, action movie, book adaptation and ensemble movie cast, but the film's stars also weren't present at the ceremony, leaving more screen time on the CBS broadcast for other winners in the show's 43 categories honoring TV, film and music.

AP

Emma Stone accepts the award for favorite movie actress during the People's Choice Awards on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012 in Los Angeles.

Ellen DeGeneres, Nina Dobrev, Chloe Grace Moretz, Adam Levine, Lea Michele and Demi Lovato, who performed "Give Your Heart a Break," were among the winners on hand to accept their awards selected by Internet votes.

"For all the Rachel Berrys out there, this one's for you guys," said Michele, who won as favorite comedy TV actress for her "Glee" role.

Emma Stone and Johnny Depp—another no-show—won two trophies at the ceremony, which was hosted by "The Big Bang Theory" star Kaley Cuoco. Depp and Stone, respectively, won the favorite movie actor and actress awards, while Depp was also honored as favorite animated movie voice for "Rango," and Stone was selected as favorite comedic movie actress.

"I moved to L.A. eight years ago this week with my mom, who's right there," Stone said while accepting her pair of crystal trophies. "It is so insane to be standing up here right now. It is hard to describe to you."

Among the TV winners were "How I Met Your Mother" for TV comedy, "Two Broke Girls" for new TV comedy, "Hot in Cleveland" for cable TV comedy, Neil Patrick Harris for TV comedy actor, "Supernatural" for TV drama and sci-fi/fantasy show, "Person of Interest" for new TV drama, "Pretty Little Liars" for cable TV drama and Nathan Fillion for TV drama actor.

Winners in the movie categories included Hugh Jackman for action star, "Bridesmaids" for comedy movie, "Water for Elephants" for drama movie, Adam Sandler for comedic movie actor and Ryan Reynolds as Green Lantern for favorite superhero. Morgan Freeman was bestowed with the first-ever favorite movie icon award.

"When I found out that I'd been nominated for the first-ever People's Choice movie icon award, I decided to look up `icon,'" Freeman said. "Here's what I found: The first definition said an icon is a tiny picture on a computer screen that represents a file."

'Artist' wins 4 trophies at Critics' Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Artist" waltzed away with its first wins of Hollywood's awards season.

The black-and-white ode to the silent-film era directed by Michel Hazanavicius led winners with four honors at Thursday's 17th annual Critics' Choice Awards, which are presented by the 250 members of the Broadcast Film Critics Association.

"The Artist" took the evening's top prize, best picture, as well honors for best score, costume design and director.

"I made a silent movie," French director Hazanavicius joked in English while accepting the award for best picture. "I don't like to speak so much."

"The Help," the adaptation of Kathryn Stockett's best-selling novel about black maids speaking out about their white employers during the civil-rights movement, followed behind "The Artist" with three wins in the ceremony's acting categories: Viola Davis as best actress, Octavia Spencer as best supporting actress and the film's cast as best acting ensemble.

"I absolutely knew I wanted to be an actor because I wanted to be somebody," an emotional Davis said accepting her award. "I wanted to dream big and make a mark somehow. That's something absolutely that Aibileen was not afforded. I considered it my honor to pay homage to these women at this time period who were not allowed to dream and not allowed to find their purpose."

Others who accepted trophies at the lavish Hollywood Palladium ceremony included George Clooney as best actor for "The Descendants," Christopher Plummer as best supporting actor for "Beginners" and Thomas Horn as best young actor for "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close."

"Frankly, I didn't even imagine I would get this, but I have," beamed a surprised Horn.

Funnymen Paul Scheer and Rob Huebel hosted the ceremony, which was broadcast live on VH1.

Other winners included "Bridesmaids" as best comedy movie, "Drive" as best action movie, "Rango" as best animated feature, "Midnight in Paris" as best original screenplay, "Moneyball" as best adapted screenplay, "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" for best editing and "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" for best makeup and best sound.

Colbert preps prez run, transfers PAC to Stewart

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephen Colbert isn't running for president—at least not yet.

During Thursday night's episode of "The Colbert Report," Colbert legally transferred his super political action committee to his friend and Comedy Central cohort Jon Stewart. Dropping by from "The Daily Show," Stewart happily signed the documents and accepted the post, which was ceremonially observed by the two holding hands and bodily transferring the PAC powers.

The move potentially paves the way for Colbert to enter the Republican presidential primary in South Carolina, his home state. Campaigning politicians are prohibited from simultaneously running super PACs.

But Colbert only hinted at such a decision, which he had grandly hyped ahead of Thursday's show. In flirting candidate style, he announced that he is forming "an exploratory committee to lay the groundwork for my possible candidacy for the president of the United States of South Carolina."

Patriotically colored balloons were released in the studio while a graphic screamed "I'm Doing It!"

Colbert

Stewart and Colbert hashed out the peculiar legalities of their arrangement. With Colbert's lawyer (and former chairman of the Federal Election Commission) Trevor Potter on hand, they spelled out that while Colbert was legally forbidden from participating in strategy and advertising with the super PAC, he could still talk about his plans on his TV show and even volunteer for the super PAC.

Stewart declared Colbert vice president of youth outreach for the super PAC, which was renamed The Definitely Not Coordinated with Stephen Colbert Super PAC. Along with Potter, the three joined hands like a sports team and—with thick irony—cheered in unison: "Non-coordination!"

In 2007, Colbert attempted to enter the South Carolina primary but was stymied by filing fees. The super PAC could very well eliminate any such financial concerns. Colbert hasn't publically revealed the amount raised from viewer contributions by the PAC, but on Thursday he repeatedly hinted that it was a shockingly large amount.

Colbert has otherwise been very transparent about the PAC's workings, using it to parody the current system's contradictions and potential conflicts of interest. Political action committees stem from a 2010 Supreme Court decision that changed the rules of corporate political donations.

A Public Policy Polling survey released Tuesday found that Colbert is polling ahead of former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman in South Carolina. According to the survey, Colbert has 5 percent of the vote and Huntsman has 4 percent.

Upon reading those results on "The Report" on Wednesday, Colbert said: "This just got real."

5 music stars who became movie stars

By **CHRISTY LEMIRE**
AP MOVIE CRITIC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Everyone wants to be a multi-hyphenate. No one wants to be pigeonholed. And so basketball players try to be rappers and rappers try to be basketball players. Jessica Simpson sells shoes and Jennifer Lopez sells perfume.

But while actors often try to be singers—Eddie Murphy's "Party All the Time," anyone?—singers also frequently venture into acting. Sometimes they carve out impressive second careers for themselves; sometimes, they're Britney Spears in "Crossroads."

This week, we see several musicians who've made the transition from the recording studio to the big screen. Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton co-star in the gospel comedy "Joyful Noise," while Mark Wahlberg plays a master smuggler in "Contraband." So here's a look at five great music stars who became great actors. For sake of argument, performers like Barbra Streisand, Liza Minnelli and even the aforementioned J.Lo, who had their roots in both art forms simultaneously, don't count. We're talking about people who were primarily known as singers (or rappers, etc.) and made the leap:

■ **Frank Sinatra:** The Chairman of the Board was, of course, a major pop star who caused a frenzy among screaming bobbysoxers in the 1940s before crafting a major movie career for himself. Sinatra won an Academy Award for best supporting actor in 1953's "From Here to Eternity" and earned a best-actor nomination for 1955's "The Man With the Golden Arm." Early film roles naturally were in musicals, including "Anchors Aweigh" (1945) and "On the Town" (1949) with Gene Kelly. The original "Ocean's Eleven" (1960) allowed him to play it smooth as master thief Danny Ocean, while the political thriller "The Manchurian Candidate" (1962) probably provided him with his greatest performance.

■ **Will Smith:** The former Fresh Prince of Bel-Air transformed himself into a two-time Oscar nominee, going from catchy rap tunes and sitcom laughs to heavyweight roles in "Ali" and "The Pursuit of Happyness." Smith is the epitome of a movie star, with talent and charm for days. He's proven he can do it all, from comedy (the "Men in Black" movies) to action (the "Bad Boys" movies) to romance ("Hitch") to sci-fi ("I Am Legend") to serious dramas ("Seven Pounds"). But his first major role, in 1993's "Six Degrees of Separation," showed he was confident enough to juggle multiple genres within the same film. At this point, I would say he's crossed over so completely, he's known more for his acting than for his music.

■ **Bette Midler:** The Divine Miss M forged her career belting out tunes on Broadway, at nightclubs and in bathhouses (with a then-unknown Barry Manilow as her accompanist)—a petite woman with a larger-than-life stage presence. But she wowed the world with her acting abilities in her first major film role in 1979's "The Rose," playing a self-destructive, drug-addicted rock star inspired by Janis Joplin. The performance earned her an Oscar nomination for best actress; a second nomination would come for 1991's "For the Boys." Standout comic roles include "Down and Out in Beverly Hills," ''Outrageous Fortune" and "The First Wives Club." And just try to watch "Beaches" without crying.

■ **Cher:** She's a diva who's had highs and lows and been around forever. But Cher was a singer and variety television star (with then-husband Sonny Bono) known for her big, flamboyant personality before putting together a string of strong, eclectic film performances in the '80s and '90s, including "Mask," ''The Witches of Eastwick" and "Tea With Mussolini." She won a best-actress Oscar as the hard-headed Loretta in 1987's "Moonstruck" (and before that was nominated for best supporting actress for 1983's "Silkwood"). Her last film role was ... well, it was providing the voice of a lioness under Kevin James' care in 2011's "Zookeeper." But Cher is always full of surprises, so—as her "Burlesque" ballad goes—we haven't seen the last of her.

■ **Justin Timberlake:** I was very tempted to put Dwight Yoakam in this spot. Or Mos Def, or even Ice Cube. But JT is just too powerful. He has long since transcended his "Mickey Mouse Club" and boy-band origins to become not just a formidable solo performer but also an actor of surprising range. Following dramatic supporting roles in "Alpha Dog" and "Black Snake Moan," he was charismatic as hell as the ambitious Sean Parker in "The Social Network." This year, he proved he can be both a romantic lead ("Friends With Benefits") and an action star ("In Time"), while reinforcing his strengths as a comedian ("Bad Teacher"). And then there are his "Saturday Night Live" appearances, which—granted—spoof his pop-star youth, but they also allow him to show off that sharp comic timing.

Showtime making documentary about Dick Cheney

PASADENA, California (AP)—The Showtime television network says it is preparing a new documentary on former Vice President Dick Cheney.

Showtime said Thursday that filmmaker R.J. Cutler, who made "The War Room" about Bill Clinton's presidential campaign in 1992, will make the film. No date was set for airing.

Cutler called Cheney, who was George W. Bush's vice president, "perhaps the single most influential non-president in the nation's political history." He promised a balanced and multi-dimensional look at Cheney.

Last weekend, Cutler placed ads in the Casper Star-Tribune newspaper asking residents if they had any footage or still pictures of Cheney. The former vice president lived in Wyoming as a teen and attended the University of Wyoming. He represented Wyoming in Congress from 1979 to 1989.

"Maybe somebody has a home video somewhere that we haven't heard about that we'd just like to see," said Ryan Gallagher, as associate producer at Actual Reality Pictures, Cutler's production company.

Showtime said it has begun an effort to produce high-end profiles. Its other project is about rap mogul Suge Knight.

Scorsese, James among DGA documentary nominees

NEW YORK (AP)—Martin Scorsese isn't just nominated for a Directors Guild Award for "Hugo," but also for his documentary "George Harrison: Living in the Material World."

Scorsese

The Directors Guild of America announced its documentary nominees for the 64th annual Directors Guild Awards on Thursday.

Also nominated are Steve James for the Chicago anti-violence documentary "The Interrupters"; Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky for the West Memphis Three documentary "Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory"; James Marsh for the chimpanzee rearing film "Project Nim"; and Richard Press for the fashion photographer documentary "Bill Cunningham New York."

Two of the selections—"The Interrupters" and "George Harrison"—were not among the Oscars' documentary short list of 15, from which it chooses five.

On Thursday, the academy announced that it has overhauled its often criticized documentary selection process. Beginning next year, the entire documentary branch within the academy will be able to vote on nominees, rather than just a selection committee.

Heather Locklear taken to California hospital

THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP)—Authorities say Heather Locklear was taken to a Southern California hospital for precautionary reasons after an emergency call was made from her home.

Paramedics and sheriff's deputies responded Thursday afternoon to Locklear's home in Westlake Village, which is 35 miles (56 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles.

Ventura County sheriff's Capt. Mike Aranda says he did not know Locklear's condition but deputies are not investigating.

Locklear has been hospitalized several times over the years. In 2009, she pleaded no contest to reckless driving after being arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of prescription medication.

The 50-year-old actress's publicists did not return messages seeking comment.

Locklear and "Melrose Place" co-star Jack Wagner recently ended their engagement. She was previously married to Bon Jovi guitarist Richie Sambora, and they have a daughter together.

In this June 12, 2009 file photo, Heather Locklear arrives at the Women in Film Crystal Lucy Awards in Los Angeles. AP

Turkish court charges Sarah Ferguson on orphanages

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—A Turkish court on Thursday filed charges against Britain's Duchess of York for secretly filming orphanages in the country.

The court accused Ferguson in absentia of going "against the law in acquiring footage and violating privacy" of five children. She faces a maximum term of 22 1/2 years in prison if convicted. No trial date has been set.

Ferguson, the former wife of Britain's Prince Andrew, made an undercover trip to Turkey in 2008 to examine orphanages for a British television program. Secretly filmed images that were broadcast appeared to show children tied to their beds or left in cribs at an orphanage near the capital, Ankara.

It was not clear why it took more than three years to file charges against Ferguson.

Britain's Home Office declined to say whether any requests have been made to extradite Ferguson, saying its general policy was not to comment on individual cases. The Foreign Office said it expected "high legal and judicial standards to be observed," though it added that it would be "premature and inappropriate to speculate on possible outcomes at this stage."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Original MTV veejays have book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—MTV's surviving original veejays have some wild times to share. Atria Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, announced Thursday that it had signed with Nina Blackwood, Mark Goodman, Alan Hunter and Martha Quinn for an "uncensored" oral history of the music channel launched in 1981. The book is currently untitled and no release date had been set. A fifth veejay, J.J. Jackson, died in 2004. According to Atria, the veejays will talk about everything from partying with Van Halen to a disastrous "Paint the Mutha Pink" contest with "Pink Houses" singer John Cougar Mellencamp. The veejays also participated in an MTV oral history published last year, but Atria spokesman Paul Olsewski said Thursday that they have saved their "best stories" for their own book.

Lil Wayne writing prison memoir

NEW YORK (AP) — Lil Wayne is offering a literary tour of his prison days. The million-selling rapper has signed with Grand Central Publishing, a division of Hachette Book Group, for the memoir "Gone Till November." Hachette announced Thursday that the book will tell of his eight months spent at the Rikers Island complex on a gun possession charge. Scheduled to come out in November, two years after his release, the book will be an "internal monologue," based on diaries he kept while in prison. Born Dwayne Carter Jr., Lil Wayne had the best-selling album of 2008 with "Tha Carter III," which won a best rap album Grammy.

Foo Fighters, Swift, Minaj to perform at Grammys

NEW YORK (AP) — Foo Fighters and Bruno Mars both have six Grammy nominations, including album of the year. And now both acts will perform at the award show. The Recording Academy announced Thursday that Taylor Swift, Nicki Minaj, Jason Aldean and Kelly Clarkson will also hit the stage at 54th annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 12. Kanye West leads with seven nominations. Adele is also up for six Grammys, including album, song and record of the year. She's currently recovering from surgery on her vocal cords and her sophomore album, "21," was last year's top seller. Other multiple nominees include Skrillex, Rihanna, Lady Gaga, Chris Brown, Bon Iver and Mumford & Sons.

Eddie Van Halen gives guitars to LA-area schools

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rocker Eddie Van Halen has donated 75 electric guitars to Los Angeles-area high schools as a way to inspire music in kids. Tricia Steel of the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation says the Van Halen lead-guitarist came with the brand-new guitars this week, saying he wanted them used in schools and not sold. The non-profit Los Angeles foundation has distributed the guitars to seven schools serving mostly low-income students that needed them to replace broken instruments or build music enrollment. Schools were not told where the guitars came from until they arrived, and then they were advised to keep them under tight lock and key.

Country star Keith Urban returning to stage

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Keith Urban will return to the stage on Feb. 3 at the Grand Ole Opry following vocal surgery. The country superstar had a polyp removed from a vocal cord at Vanderbilt University Medical Center late last year and has been on vocal rest. His appearance at The Ryman Auditorium next month will be his first public performance since he recorded a song for the "CMA Country Christmas" television special in mid-November. He was forced to postpone his "All For The Hall" benefit concert for the Country Music Hall of Fame that was originally scheduled for Jan. 18. He also rescheduled the tail end of his 2011 concert tour for later this year.

Harry Connick Jr.'s musical to close on Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Harry Connick Jr.'s latest Broadway venture is ending earlier than he hoped. Producers of "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever" said Thursday that the musical will play its final performance on Jan. 29. When it closes, it will have played 29 preview and 57 regular performances. The production has songs by Burton Lane and Alan Jay Lerner that made its debut on Broadway in 1965 and was adapted into a 1970 film starring Barbra Streisand and Yves Montand. The musical got mostly poor reviews when it opened last month. Last week, it took in $584,711 at the box office, or only about 42 percent of its potential. Connick's last time on Broadway was in a concert show.

Boyfriend tugs at heartstrings from a very long distance

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Cole," and I have been together since college—several years now. We have a loving relationship, but the problem is distance. My job sometimes requires me to take short-term (two- to five-month) contracts in other cities and overseas.

Even though it is difficult to be apart, I handle long-distance relationships relatively well while Cole does not. This began in college when I studied abroad for a semester. Cole tries to be supportive and wants me to be successful, but he takes it personally when I have to leave. For me, it's just about a job, but Cole doesn't see it that way.

I would support Cole wherever and in whatever he needed. Although it would be ideal to be together all the time, I realize that sometimes it isn't possible. Am I being selfish, or do we simply need different things out of a relationship?

GLOBE-TROTTER IN DES MOINES

DEAR GLOBE-TROTTER: Are you being selfish, or is Cole being selfish? Are you willing to give up a career you have prepared for and work in so that he will no longer suffer separation anxiety? While your relationship is a loving one, the two of you have serious differences, and you must rationally decide which is more important to you. After that, everything will fall into place.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife died nine years ago after a long illness. We have a son, a daughter and seven grandchildren.

I met "Lucille" two years ago at a basketball game that involved both our grandsons. Slowly, we began dating. Lucille has been a widow for many years and has five children. We are now engaged and planning a wedding for about 60 people after Lucille retires next year. We want to include our families in the ceremony.

Lucille's two eldest sons plan to give her away. Two of her granddaughters will be flower girls. I asked my son to be my best man and he refused. He said he is happy for us and will attend the wedding, but he prefers not to stand up for me. He feels it would be disloyal to his mother's memory. He is adamant.

I never imagined my son would act this way. I didn't mean to offend him. I'm not trying to replace his mother. We just want to bring both families together. Abby, your opinion, please.

WELL-MEANING DAD ON THE EAST COAST

DEAR DAD: It's a shame that your son feels unable to support you as you enter this new phase of your life. If he is offended at the idea that after nine years you would want to remarry, the problem is his. Do not make it yours. I'm sure your late wife would want your life to be fulfilling. Ask your daughter or a close friend to stand up with you and let nothing spoil your day. You and Lucille have earned your happiness. Bless you both.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please tell me the proper etiquette for gift-giving. My in-laws often leave the price tags on gifts, especially if the gift was expensive. I believe price tags should be removed. Shouldn't a gift come from the heart and not be a monetary statement?

OFFENDED IN WISCONSIN

DEAR OFFENDED: Yes, it should. Leaving a price tag on a gift implies that the giver is also "giving" the recipient a burden of gratitude. And the burden of gratitude can weigh so heavily that it diminishes the pleasure of receiving a gift.

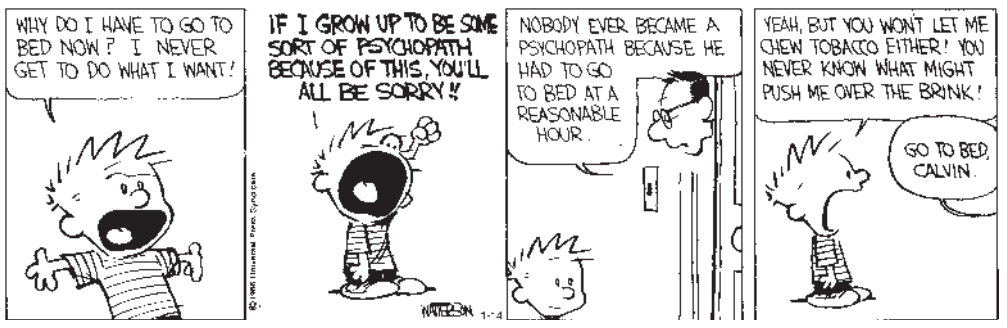
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHY DO I HAVE TO GO TO BED NOW? I NEVER GET TO DO WHAT I WANT!
IF I GROW UP TO BE SOME SORT OF PSYCHOPATH BECAUSE OF THIS, YOU'LL ALL BE SORRY!!
NOBODY EVER BECAME A PSYCHOPATH BECAUSE HE HAD TO GO TO BED AT A REASONABLE HOUR.
YEAH, BUT YOU WON'T LET ME CHEW TOBACCO EITHER! YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT PUSH ME OVER THE BRINK!
GO TO BED, CALVIN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DRIP
I THINK THE CEILING HAS A LEAK.
THAT'S NOT A LEAK. THE HOUSE IS SWEATING.
DON'T KID A KIDDER.
I'M SERIOUS. IT HAPPENS WHEN IT'S COLD OUTSIDE AND THE HEAT'S ON INSIDE.
EW! HOUSE SWEAT JUST GOT ON MY SHOE!
IT'S BEST TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT WHEN THE HOUSE IS SWEATING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
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13 Queue
14 Altar affirmative
15 Con
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17 Dijon denial
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20 In pre-swan mode
21 Recipe meas.
23 Knock
25 Fourscore
28 Sentimental sort
32 Photocopy's ancestor, for short
33 Castles
34 Music-makers of India
36 Thoroughfare
37 Mischievous kid
38 Crone
39 Burn somewhat
42 Unfriendly
44 1960s State Secretary Dean
48 Charged bit
49 Chills and fever
50 Ere long
51 Illustrations
52 Weeps loudly
53 Ill will
54 "A Chorus Line" song
55 Undo a dele
56 CrockPot contents

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1 Just one of those things?
2 Sharpen
3 Memorization method
4 Still unsettled
5 Somnolent
6 Neat
7 Enrages
8 Spelldown
9 Heartstrings sound
10 Pedestal occupant
11 Shetland, for instance
20 Available to anyone
22 Tempest
24 Heart line?
25 Type squares
26 Midafternoon, in a way
27 London hrs.
29 Pirouette pivot
30 Harry's successor
31 "Guinness Book" suffix
35 Tap
36 Least gregarious
39 Florentine farewell
40 Trumpet
41 Initial stake
43 Rubik's poser
45 Platoon, e.g.
46 Unrivaled
47 Recognized
49 Fool

Solution time: 27 mins.

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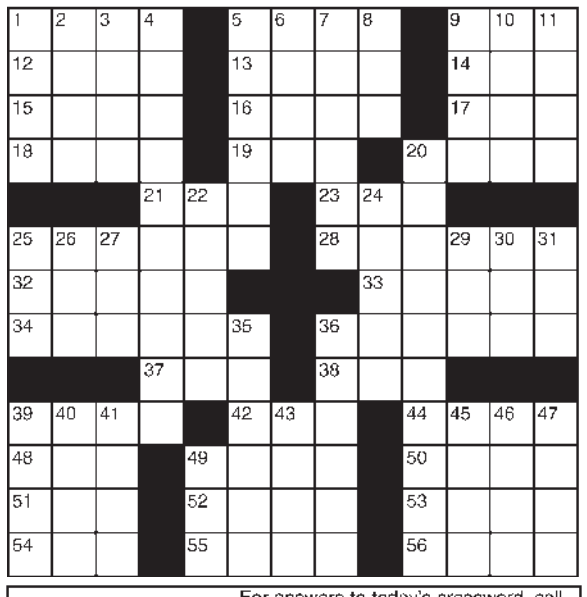
Yesterday's answer 1-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Bateman, 43; LL Cool J, 44; Holland Taylor, 69; Faye Dunaway, 71.

Happy Birthday: You have everything in place except your emotions. Don't ruin a good thing by letting someone's unpredictable nature undermine your ability to make a good decision. This can be a great year with lots of perks if you can separate your personal sentiments from your business dealings. Think, delineate and dive in. Your numbers are 9, 14, 18, 20, 32, 44, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll be prone to making impulsive decisions that will be detrimental to your future. Don't let anyone force you out of a position or convince you to take on something that is riddled with uncertainty. Do your research. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll be in the right place at the right time. Your desire to help others will bring you added benefits. Travel if it will help you develop or gain knowledge imperative to something you want to accomplish. Expand your horizons. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't get angry, get moving. You have everything to gain by keeping a sound mind and an active body. Your ability to adapt to adversity will help you bypass obstacles that a competitor or jealous acquaintance throws at you. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Get whatever you need to finish out of the way. Complaints will be voiced if you neglect your chores or you aren't attentive to the needs of others. Avoid emotional outbursts by being attentive and focusing on love, romance and family. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Spice things up. Do something unique. Venture into unfamiliar territory. The more you do to stimulate your mind and to challenge yourself physically, the better you will feel. Let your heart lead the way and you will reach personal goals. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't sit around waiting for others to make plans for you. Step up and be the one to get things started. Networking, travel and interacting with people who share your interests will lead to an interesting turn of events. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Proceed with caution, especially with home and family matters. An opportunity is likely to upset someone you care about. Be diplomatic and gentle in the way you handle others to avoid unwanted turmoil. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Share your experiences with friends, relatives or neighbors. What you learn in the process will come in handy when you want to ask for favors. A plan you have can expand your professional future. Love is in the stars, and romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Get together with peers or people who can help you flush out a moneymaking idea you want to pursue. Getting a conservative view will help you scale down and perfect your strategy, helping you find a successful way to move forward. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Whatever you touch will turn to gold. Invest in you and your property. A fortunate situation will develop that will enhance your chance to monopolize something you have to offer. Share your success with the ones you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You will reach your goal, slowly but surely. A plan to alter your residence will pay off and aid you in getting some of your other dreams, hopes and wishes off the ground. You'll gain greater security and support by taking action. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take care of your physical and mental well-being. Enhance your look or take on a creative project to boost your reputation or to win favors from someone who can help you get a dream off the ground. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, unpredictable and protective. You strive for justice and fairness.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5			9	6	8			3
	6	4				9	8	
			8		9			
4		9		3		1		7
			1		4			
	7	8				3	1	
2			7	5	3			8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	1	9	6	7	2	5	4	3
5	3	4	8	1	9	6	2	7
6	2	7	4	5	3	8	1	9
7	9	1	3	6	5	4	8	2
2	5	6	7	4	8	9	3	1
3	4	8	9	2	1	7	6	5
4	7	3	1	9	6	2	5	8
9	8	5	2	3	4	1	7	6
1	6	2	5	8	7	3	9	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE WORD IS 'FANCY' Solution: 8 letters

B	L	C	L	D	F	D	Y	D	U	A	G	D	G	L
A	E	A	O	A	E	E	S	O	P	P	U	S	A	V
R	D	A	V	L	T	S	C	R	A	V	E	U	R	I
O	E	O	U	I	O	N	I	F	E	G	S	P	N	S
Q	R	X	R	T	S	R	E	G	A	U	S	E	I	I
U	E	F	T	N	I	H	F	M	N	C	C	R	S	O
E	C	Y	I	R	E	F	I	U	A	O	T	B	H	N
E	K	I	L	G	A	D	Y	E	L	N	K	O	E	O
A	O	M	A	L	M	V	L	I	C	A	R	E	D	I
R	N	R	O	A	I	E	A	T	N	N	A	O	E	T
E	I	V	E	T	G	R	N	G	A	G	P	R	R	O
M	E	R	I	A	S	A	F	T	A	S	S	U	I	N
I	D	A	N	D	W	U	E	F	A	N	T	A	S	Y
H	S	T	Y	L	E	H	C	I	R	H	T	E	E	T
C	H	I	C	H	I	A	P	P	R	O	V	E	D	E

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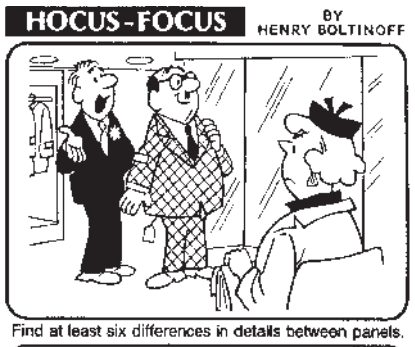
Adorned, Approve, Baroque, Beautifying, Care, Chichi, Chimera, Colorful, Crave, Custom, Deluxe, Design, Desire, Dream, Elegant, Extravagant, Fact, Fantasy, Favor, Figment, Frilly, Garnished, Gaudy, Guess, Idea, Image, Lavish, Like, Love, Mirage, Notion, Ornamental, Ornate, Reckon, Rich, Spark, Style, Superb, Suppose, Taste, Truth, Unusual, Vision, Want

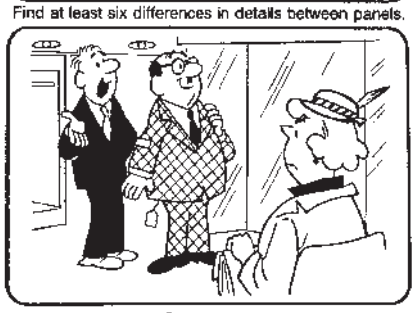
Yesterday's Answer: Childish

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Hat is different. 2. Boutonniere is missing. 3. Earring is different. 4. Shoes are black. 5. Ceiling lights are different. 6. Clothes are missing from rack.

Wishing Well®

3	8	4	3	2	6	7	5	3	5	7	6	2
U	R	B	S	P	W	U	M	E	A	N	A	R
3	5	2	7	6	5	7	3	5	4	5	7	4
C	K	O	I	R	E	O	O	W	O	I	N	S
2	6	4	3	7	4	8	4	7	4	5	7	3
M	M	S	M	O	S	E	A	F	Y	S	I	M
7	8	3	7	8	3	5	6	5	3	8	2	4
D	M	O	E	A	N	E	F	C	S	I	O	S
8	6	5	4	6	3	6	7	2	5	2	3	5
N	E	H	Y	E	E	L	A	T	O	I	N	I
3	4	8	5	7	3	2	6	4	5	2	6	2
S	E	P	C	S	E	O	I	S	E	N	N	A
8	5	6	2	8	6	8	2	8	2	8	2	2
O	S	G	T	I	S	S	W	E	O	D	R	K

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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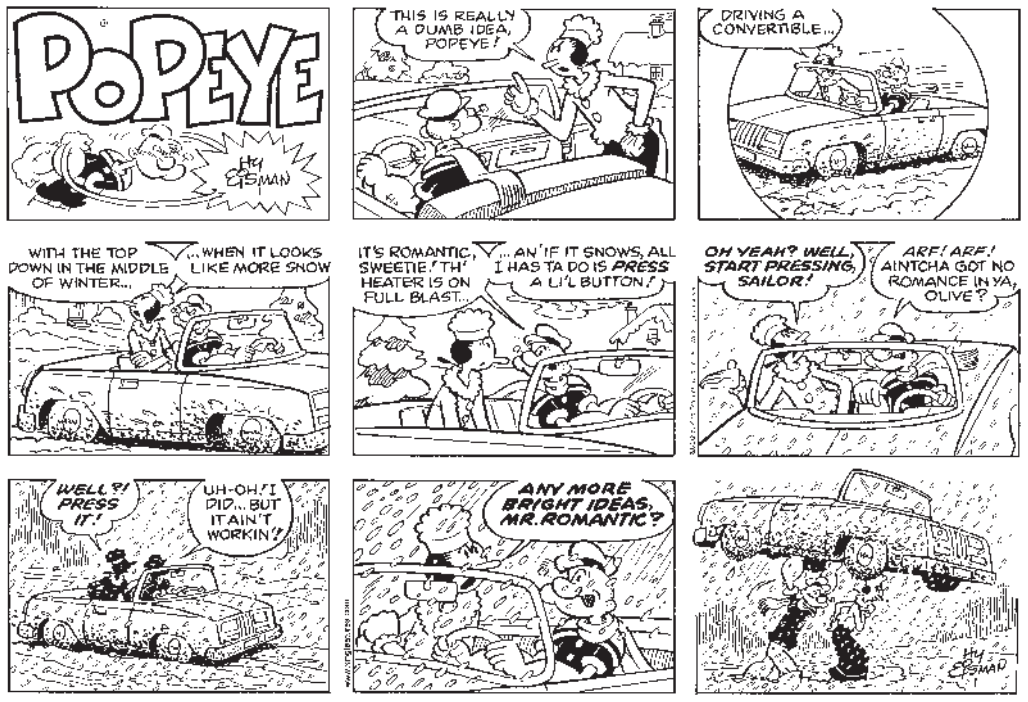
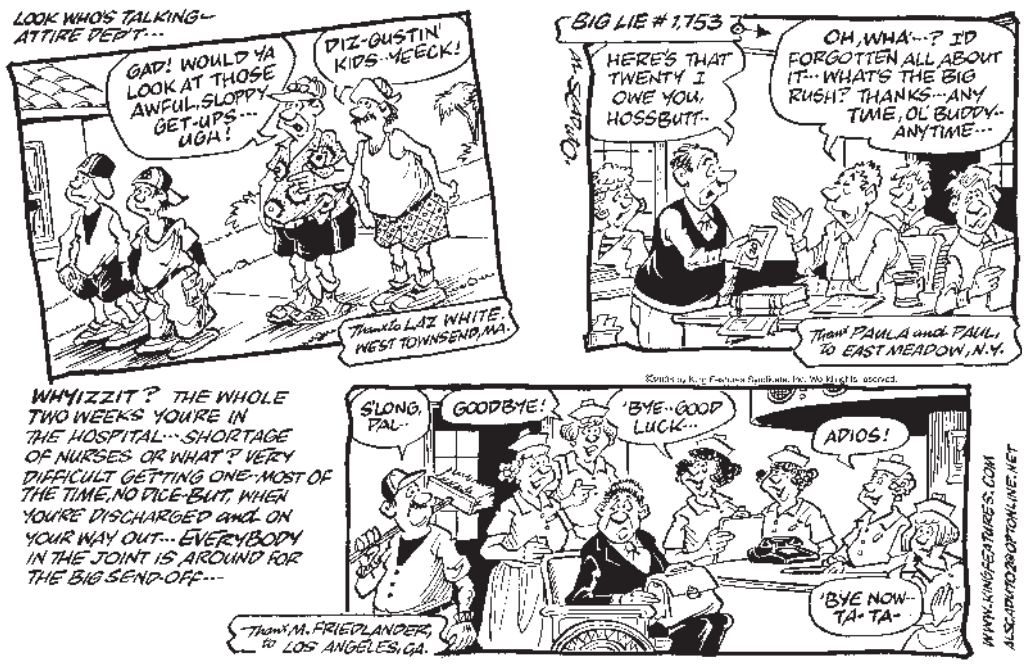
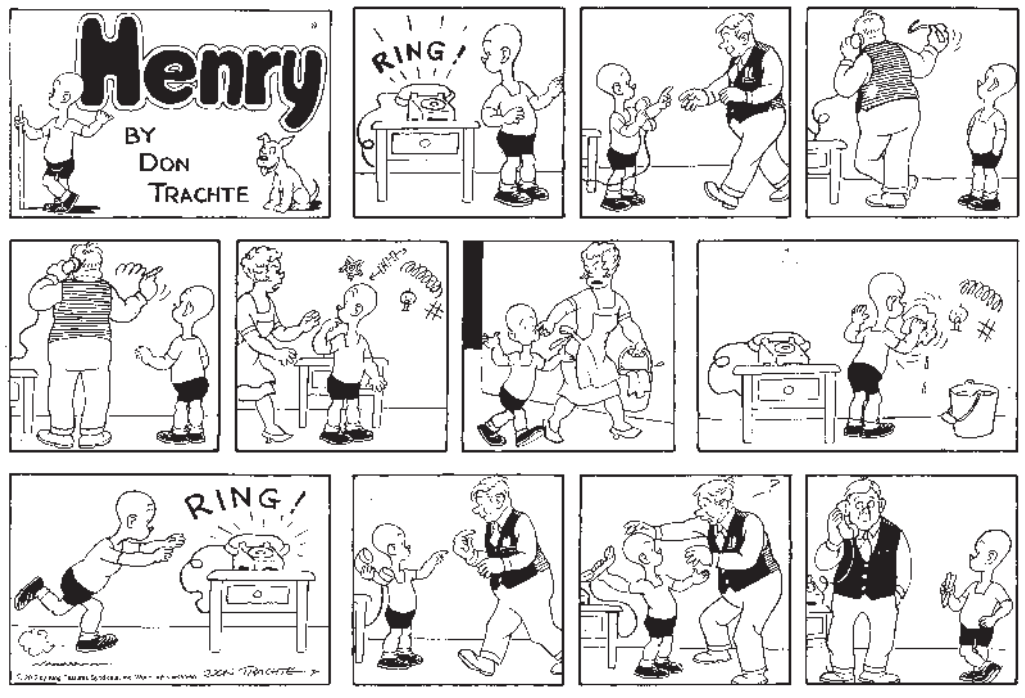

POPEYE
HY EISMAN
THIS IS REALLY A DUMB IDEA, POPEYE!
DRIVING A CONVERTIBLE...
WITH THE TOP DOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER...
...WHEN IT LOOKS LIKE MORE SNOW
IT'S ROMANTIC, SWEETIE! TH' HEATER IS ON FULL BLAST..
...AN' IF IT SNOWS, ALL I HAS TA DO IS PRESS A LI'L BUTTON!
OH YEAH? WELL, START PRESSING, SAILOR!
ARF! ARF! AINTCHA GOT NO ROMANCE IN YA, OLIVE?
WELL?! PRESS IT!
UH-OH! I DID... BUT IT AIN'T WORKIN'!
ANY MORE BRIGHT IDEAS, MR. ROMANTIC?

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


LOOK WHO'S TALKING— ATTIRE DEPT...
GAD! WOULD YA LOOK AT THOSE AWFUL, SLOPPY GET-UPS... UGH!
DIZ-GUSTIN' KIDS... YEECK!
Thanks to LAZ WHITE, WEST TOWNSEND, MA.
BIG LIE # 1,753
HERE'S THAT TWENTY I OWE YOU, HOSSBUTT..
OH, WHA'...? I'D FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT... WHAT'S THE BIG RUSH? THANKS... ANY TIME, OL' BUDDY.. ANYTIME...
Thanx PAULA and PAUL, TO EAST MEADOW, N.Y.
WHYIZZIT? THE WHOLE TWO WEEKS YOU'RE IN THE HOSPITAL... SHORTAGE OF NURSES OR WHAT'? VERY DIFFICULT GETTING ONE.. MOST OF THE TIME, NO DICE-BUT, WHEN YOU'RE DISCHARGED and ON YOUR WAY OUT... EVERYBODY IN THE JOINT IS AROUND FOR THE BIG SEND-OFF...
S'LONG, PAL..
GOODBYE!
'BYE.. GOOD LUCK...
ADIOS!
'BYE NOW- TA- TA-
Thanx M. FRIEDLANDER, TO LOS ANGELES, CA.

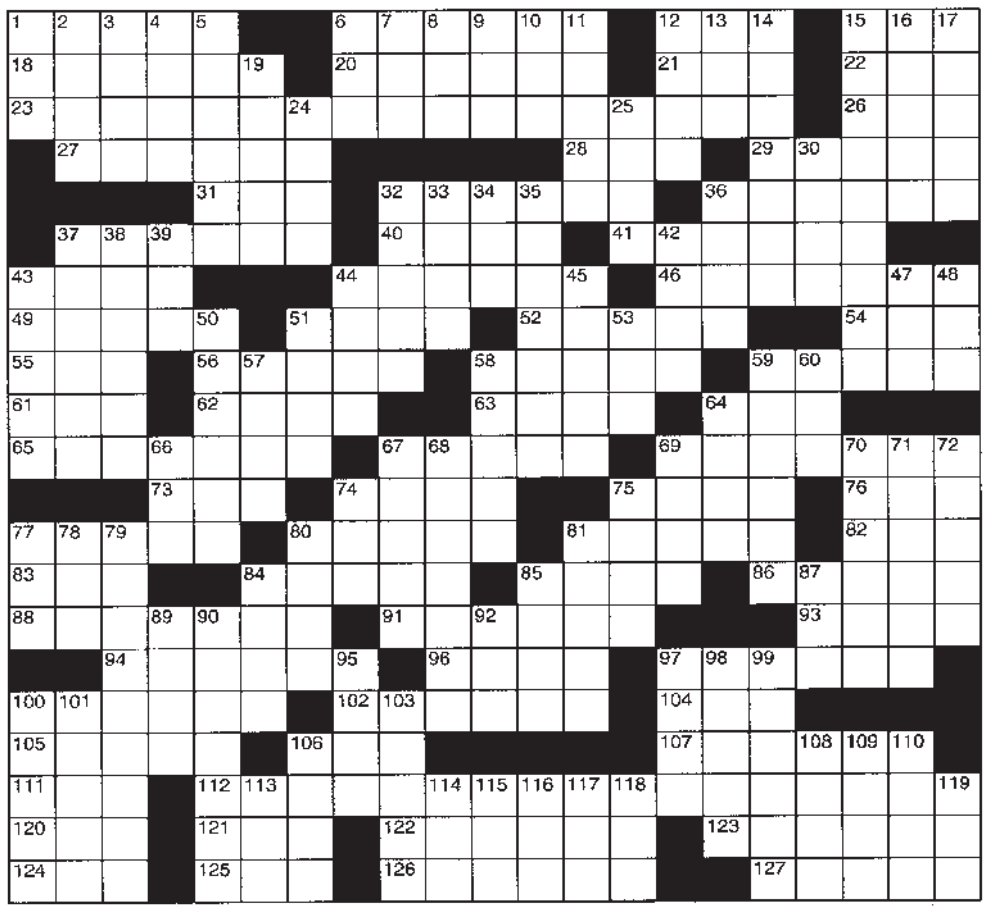


Super Crossword

BRIEFLY STATED

ACROSS
1 Roofing material
6 Litigates
12 Director Peckinpah
15 Bull's babe
18 Florida eleven
20 40th president
21 Baudelaire's buddy
22 Nabokov novel
23 Mitch Miller hit
26 "Agnus —"
27 Throw a line to
28 She's a sheep date
29 Bakery display
31 — Aviv
32 Blazing
36 Most mammoth
37 Elegant
40 Pebbles' papa
41 — Leone
43 Black and white
44 Bing Crosby hit
46 Service member?
49 Tilden's opponent
51 Seize
52 Slip of the tongue
54 Tax shelter
55 Animated Olive
56 Proofreader's mark
58 Word with tea or pepper
59 Get more magazines
61 Jack of "Flower Drum Song"
62 Be — unto oneself
63 Tear to bits
64 Marry
65 Patti Page hit
67 Scold
69 Andrews Sisters hit
73 Tenor Slezak
74 Corporate VIP
75 Burlap fiber
76 Word on a pump
77 Supped in style
80 Pasta ingredient
81 Government group
82 Winter hazard
83 TV's "Scooby- —"
84 Too experienced
85 Flip
86 Sri —
88 Land mass
91 Wilbert Harrison hit
93 Doesn't come clean
94 Daze
96 — Haven, CT
97 Exhausted
100 Enigmatic sort
102 Lost
104 Essen exclamation
105 Couldn't stand
106 First zoo?
107 Concerto —
111 Bachelor's last words
112 Gladys Knight hit
120 New Deal agcy.
121 — later date
122 Used a ewer
123 Through the nose
124 Cartoon cry
125 — de guerre
126 Beethoven's "Moonlight —"
127 Dutch artist Jan

DOWN
1 Cpl.'s superior
2 Bolger/Haley co-star
3 To — (perfectly)
4 Petite pooches
5 Builds
6 Paid player
7 Actor Ayres
8 Musical sensitivity
9 Past
10 Wagner's "— Rheingold"
11 Look like Hook?
12 Cash stash
13 Qty.
14 Blend
15 Mamas & Papas hit
16 "Golden Boy" dramatist
17 Dress part
19 Turns about
24 Portrait painter Peter
25 Is in debt
30 Taj town
32 G-sharp's keymate
33 Chow
34 Creepy Christopher
35 Stuck fast
36 Munich mister
37 Kindergarten item
38 Defeat
39 Affirmative vote
42 Sacred image
43 That's the spirit
44 Make tea
45 Worth or Papas
47 Prior to, to Prior
48 Damp and chilly
50 Cleaned a carp
51 Schwarzenegger's birthplace
53 Cabernet color
57 Voice type
58 It's run of the mill?
59 Nullify
60 Tokyo, once
64 Power unit
66 Wayfarer's whistle wetter
67 Stream
68 Earphones
69 Propel with a pole
70 Entertainer Kazan
71 Played soccer
72 Zones
74 Third degree?
75 Panel of peers
77 SHAEF commander
78 Letters of credit?
79 Johnny Horton hit
80 WWII unit
81 Dock of the bay
84 Put the whammy on
85 Galileo's birthplace
87 Heidi's hangout
89 Racer Luyendyk
90 Nocturnal visitor
92 Subway unit
95 Merit
97 It's a long story
98 Caustic
99 Conversation pieces?
100 Gleam
101 Clerical title
103 Excludes
106 Smith or Sandler
108 ER exclamation
109 Painful
110 Eye appreciatively
113 Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
114 Sticky stuff
115 Savage sort
116 La-la lead-in
117 Asian holiday
118 Nutritional abbr.
119 Writer Rand



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ENTERTAINERS: Which actor?s birth name was Ramon Estevez?
2. MUSIC: What was the name of Smokey Robinson?s group?
3. INVENTIONS: Who is credited with inventing bifocal lenses?
4. PSYCHOLOGY: What irrational fear is manifested in peniaphobia?
5. LITERATURE: In which of Shakespeare's plays does the character Shylock appear?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: During which war did Harry Truman fire Gen. Douglas MacArthur?
7. HISTORY: When did Australia become a commonwealth nation, largely gaining independence from Britain?
8. ANATOMY: About how long are the intestines in an adult male?
9. FAMOUS QUOTES: What American psychologist/philosopher once once said: ?Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.??
10. MEASUREMENTS: Which month is named for the Roman festival of ritual purification?

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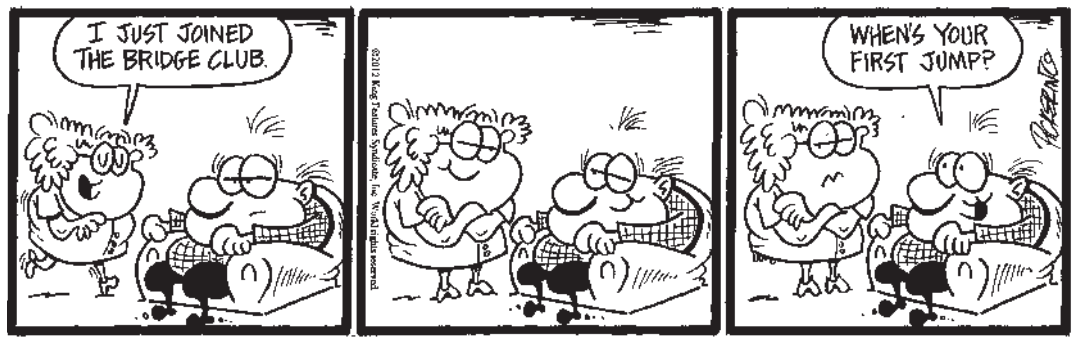
Answers
1. Martin Sheen
2. The Miracles
3. Ben Franklin
4. A fear of poverty
5. ?The Merchant of Venice?
6. Korean
7. 1901
8. About 28 feet
9. William James
10. February (Februa)

Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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(1) Taxi Operator

Minimum of 3 years experience
Have Commonwealth Taxi Bureau ID

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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Young female pig ready to be bred or roast-call to see - 322-0268 - Sow/bore on site

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Left holding the bag

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Howard breaks FT attempts mark, Magic top Warriors

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Dwight Howard broke Wilt Chamberlain's nearly 50-year-old NBA record for most free throw attempts in a game, making 21 of 39 in the Orlando Magic's 117-109 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Thursday night.

The Warriors hacked Howard intentionally throughout, sending the notoriously poor shooter to the line in record-setting fashion. Chamberlain shot 34 for the Philadelphia Warriors against St. Louis on Feb. 22, 1962.

Howard finished with 45 points and 23 rebounds, and Hedo Turkoglu scored 20 points to propel the Magic to their third straight victory.

Monta Ellis had 30 points and 11 rebounds and David Lee added 26 points and 12 rebounds for the short-handed Warriors, playing without starters Stephen Curry and Dorell Wright.

The Hack-a-Howard routine reached a whole new level.

Howard had never shot more than 24 free throws in a game—which he had four times previously—and fouled so early. Certainly, nothing compared to the Warriors' ways.

Howard eclipsed his old mark with 2:09 remaining in the third quarter, getting hacked and held intentionally at the end of each quarter with mixed results. If nothing else, Golden State rookie coach Mark Jackson's strategy slowed down the pace and refused to let the Magic's potent shooters find their rhythm.

Howard tied Chamberlain's record when Andris Biedrins fouled him—and fouled out—with 7:17 remaining in the fourth quarter, making 1 of 2 to give the Magic a 93-92 lead. Howard has shot just below 60 percent at the line for his career.

Golden State almost managed an upset behind the tactic.

Klay Thompson put the Warriors ahead 107-106 on a 3-pointer with a little less than 3 minutes remaining, only to see Howard respond on the other end quickly. Howard floated a hook shot and then made a free throw to put the Magic back in front by two.

After Ellis made a runner to even the score, Howard grabbed an offensive rebound on the next possession and finished strong at the rim while getting fouled by Lee—who also fouled out on the play. Howard made the free throw to complete a three-point conversion.

Von Wafer finally sealed Orlando's victory with a 3-point with 36.9 seconds to play that stretched the Magic's lead to six, blowing a kiss to the crowd afterward. Jackson could only shake his head.

The undersized Warriors sent double-teams and traps at Howard and frustrated the All-Star center with fouls from the start.

Jeremy Tyler intentionally fouled Howard with 8.1 seconds remaining in the first quarter, a tactic some teams utilize late in games with the center's well-documented struggles at the stripe, but rarely seen so early. Howard made 1 of 2.

After scoring the first nine points of the game, Golden State relied on the cushion for most of the first half. Nate Robinson's running layup pushed the Warriors ahead 44-3, relying on a surprisingly strong defensive effort.

And fouls.

Three more times in the second quarter, Jackson called for his players to intentional hack Howard as soon as he crossed half court. Howard was 5 of 6 from the line during that stretch.

Orlando closed the half with a flurry of free throws and layups, part of an 18-9 run that sliced Golden State's lead to only four at the break. Howard shot 9 for 18 from the line in the first half.

Cavaliers 101, Suns 90

In Phoenix, rookie star Kyrie Irving scored a season-high 26 points and Antawn Jamison matched his season high with 23, helping Cleveland beat Phoenix.

Irving, who played only 11 games at Duke before being drafted first overall, topped his previous high of 21. Anderson Varejeo contributed 15 rebounds for the Cavaliers.

Steve Nash led six Suns players in double figures with 16 points, becoming the 15th active player to reach 16,000 points. He also had 15 assists. Marcin Gortat had 14 points and 12 rebounds for Phoenix.

Michael Redd, playing his first game for Phoenix, had 12 points in 19 minutes.

Grizzlies 94, Knicks 83

In Memphis, Tennessee, Rudy Gay scored a season-high 26 points as Memphis beat New York to end the Knicks' winning streak at four games.

The Knicks played most of the second half without scoring leader Carmelo Anthony after he sprained his right ankle early in the third period. He didn't return and X-rays were negative.

Gay made 11 of 16 shots to help the Grizzlies snap a three-game losing streak and improve to 4-6. O.J. Mayo scored 18 points, also a season high, on 7-of-12 shooting and had eight rebounds. Tony Allen added 12 points, and Marc Gasol had 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Anthony and Bill Walker each scored 14 points to lead the Knicks (6-5). Rookie guard Iman Shumpert had 12 points, but was 5 of 20 from the field.

Hawks 111, Bobcats 81

In Atlanta, Josh Smith scored 30 points and Joe Johnson added 23 as Atlanta won its first game without All-Star center Al Horford, routing Charlotte to improve to 8-4.

The Hawks learned earlier in the day that Horford, a leader on and off the court, will miss at least three months after tearing the pectoral muscle in his left shoulder Wednesday night at Indiana.

Byron Mullens led the Bobcats with 21 points in his first career start.

Bucks 102, Pistons 93

In Milwaukee, Brandon Jennings scored 27 points and Stephen Jackson added 25 as Milwaukee beat Detroit.

The Bucks improved to 4-0 at home and 4-6 overall, while the Pistons dropped to 2-9 with their sixth straight loss and fifth in a row on the road. Detroit last lost six straight from March 13-April 3, 2010.

Rookie Jon Leuer, making his first start for the Bucks, added 15 points and six rebounds.

Greg Monroe led the Pistons with a career-high 32 points and had 16 rebounds.

AP

Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard (12) takes a free throw against the Golden State Warriors during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oakland, Calif., Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012.

Hawks' Horford out 3-4 months with shoulder

ATLANTA (AP)—Atlanta Hawks All-Star center Al Horford will miss at least three months with a shoulder injury, a major blow to a playoff contender in the Eastern Conference.

The team announced Thursday that Horford tore his left pectoral muscle in the first quarter of Wednesday night's game at Indiana. The injury will likely require surgery, stunning a team that has made the playoffs four years in a row and is off to a solid start with wins over Miami and Chicago in the early going.

"I did hear something kind of pop a little bit, so I thought it was something different," said Horford, who wrenched his shoulder while battling for a rebound with Roy Hibbert. "I'm still surprised. I thought I was going to be able to rehab it for a couple of weeks and come back."

Horford, a two-time All-Star, could be out as long as four months, which would take his rehab deep into the playoffs—should the Hawks make it that far. He will get a second opinion before making the final decision to undergo surgery, but even the most optimistic projection would keep him out until mid-April.

The Hawks final regular-season game is April 26.

"He's going to certainly be missed," coach Larry Drew said. "We were starting to mesh. We were starting to jell. I'm hoping our guys will rally around one another."

Horford was injured with 6:08 remaining in the first quarter of Wednesday's game. He was averaging 12.4 points, 7.0 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 1.3 blocks to go along with the NBA's eighth-best shooting percentage (.553).

The 25-year-old is a bit undersized for the center position (6-foot-10, 245 pounds) but he quickly emerged as perhaps the most valuable Atlanta player after being picked third overall in the 2007 draft. His loss leaves the Hawks with a huge hole on the inside, plus some much-needed leadership in the locker room. Zaza Pachulia and Jason Collins are the other centers on the roster, neither of whom is likely to come close to matching Horford's production.

"The talent is huge," Drew said. "But the leadership and the presence, he's the glue for us."

Horford isn't the only injured player on the banged-up Hawks, just the most serious. Marvin Williams (ankle) and Tracy McGrady (back) didn't dress for Thursday night's game against Charlotte.

Now, the focus is clearly on Joe Johnson and Josh Smith to carry the Hawks.

"Guys are going to have to pick up the slack," Horford said. "The guys are going to have to raise their games. It starts with Josh and Joe."

Johnson, who is leading the Hawks with 16.7 points a game, is ready to take on more of a load but said he can't do it himself.

"We can't worry about who we have out on the court, we've just got to go out there and play," Johnson said. "Not only I have to step up, but the whole locker room. Our big guys have to step up to fill that void of losing Al."

Smith said he'll miss working with Horford on the inside.

"That's a big void," Smith said. "Me and him are like the bash brothers down there in the paint. It definitely, definitely, definitely was very disappointing."

But no one is giving up on making the playoffs. When Smith was asked if the Hawks were capable of making another trip to the postseason without their All-Star center, he quickly replied:

"Yeah. Most definitely."

Zambrano says he's happy with trade to Marlins

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Carlos Zambrano is excited about the trade that sent him from the Chicago Cubs to the Miami Marlins, expressing confidence that it will rejuvenate his career.

The hot-tempered pitcher was a three-time All-Star with the Cubs, but he feuded with teammates, management and umpires. Miami is hoping he will get back on track while pitching for his Venezuelan countryman, new Marlins manager Ozzie Guillen.

"This is like a rebirth in my career, and I say so because it is a new experience, a change that creates a new opportunity," Zambrano said Thursday in his first public comments since the deal.

Zambrano was 125-81 with a 3.60 ERA during 11 seasons with the Cubs, a rocky tenure that ended Aug. 12. He was ejected from a game, cleaned out his locker, talked about retiring and was suspended without pay.

He was sent to the Marlins last Thursday for fellow right-hander Chris Volstad. Zambrano, due to earn $18 million this season in the final year of his contract, waived his no-trade clause to accept the deal.

"My time with the Cubs was very successful except for the last two years," he said. "But I would say there were 11 years of success and would like to be remembered well in Chicago. Unfortunately the last two years there was no mutual understanding on either side and many things happened."

The 30-year-old Zambrano expressed gratitude to the Marlins for having confidence in him.

"Going to Miami will be more relaxed, waiting to do my job and together with my teammates trying to win with this team," he said.

Classic playoff matchup: Saints vs 49ers

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

As NFL matchups go, this one is a classic: unstoppable offense against impenetrable defense.

The second round of the playoffs begins Saturday in San Francisco, where one of the league's top defenses—the 49ers yielded 229 points and ranked fourth overall in yards allowed, first against the run—takes on Drew Brees and the Saints' record-setting attack.

If defense wins championships, as has been the theory in pro football for decades, the edge clearly belongs to the 49ers. Then again, the NFL hasn't seen an offense as prolific as the Saints.

"They've been very consistent all year," Saints coach Sean Payton said of the NFC West champion Niners (13-3). "The formula has been outstanding defense. ... They're the No. 1 team in taking the football away and they're the No. 1 team in protecting the football offensively. Those are significant numbers.

"I think you can see week to week on tape their production on both sides of the ball. You're talking about a Pro Bowl punter and a kicking game that's near the top of the league in almost every statistic. In all three phases, they've been consistent. They've received great production and as a result they've played very well."

The 49ers have five All-Pros: linebackers Patrick Willis and NaVorro Bowman, defensive tackle Justin Smith, who also plays a lot at end, kicker David Akers and punter Andy Lee. Their offense has been so efficient that San Francisco had only 10 giveaways, which equaled the 2010 Patriots for fewest in NFL history.

"It's going to be a battle," Willis said. "We know that and I'm sure they know that as well. They're going to do what they need to do to prepare to come in to play against us and we're going to do that same (thing). We'll see where the chips lay when the game is over, but we're certainly going to come with everything we have. It's either win or go home."

The Saints tore through the NFL, setting NFL marks for total yards on offense (7,474) and yards passing (5,347, including sacks), with Brees shattering Dan Marino's 27-year-old record of 5,084 yards passing by throwing for 5,476. He had 468 completions, breaking Peyton Manning's 2010 mark of 450, and completed 71.6 percent of his passes, breaking his own 2009 record of a 70.6 completion percentage.

Darren Sproles had an NFL-record 2,696 combined yards, easily breaking the previous mark of 2,690 set by Derrick Mason with Tennessee in 2000.

"We always go into every game with an aggressive mentality," Brees said. "We're going to be balanced, but within the framework of that we're going to take our shots. We're going to throw the kitchen sink at everybody with our tempo, personnel groups, formations, running the ball, outside, drop-back pass, bootlegs, heavy play-action, everything. But within the framework of that, you understand, especially early on, you check it down, move on."

Also looking to move on Saturday are the AFC East champion Patriots (13-3), who host the AFC West winners, the Denver Broncos (9-8). On Sunday, AFC South winner Houston (11-6) is at AFC North champ Baltimore (12-4) before defending Super Bowl champion Green Bay (15-1) hosts NFC East champ New York (10-7).

New England has lost its last three postseason games: the 2008 Super Bowl to the Giants, then home matchups with Baltimore and the Jets the last two Januarys. Now comes the Tim Tebow phenomenon, and it's become difficult to doubt Denver with the way it has responded to tough times.

After blowing a 14-point lead and being forced to overtime by Pittsburgh, the Broncos needed all of one play—a dynamic 80-yard catch-and run by Demaryius Thomas—to beat the far more experienced Steelers.

The challenge is just as formidable in Foxborough.

"You're definitely at a high, you're feeling great, a lot of momentum, and that's good," Tebow said. "But you really have to take that enthusiasm, that momentum into the next week's work, using that as fuel for next week and trying to continually improve on that. I think you can't necessarily relish on it too much because the next day we have to get ready for a big game and the Patriots."

Baltimore is getting ready for its first playoff home game under coach John Harbaugh, Jim's brother. The Ravens have made the playoffs in all four seasons under Harbaugh, but as wild cards.

They won their eight home games in 2011, including beating the Texans 29-14 in October.

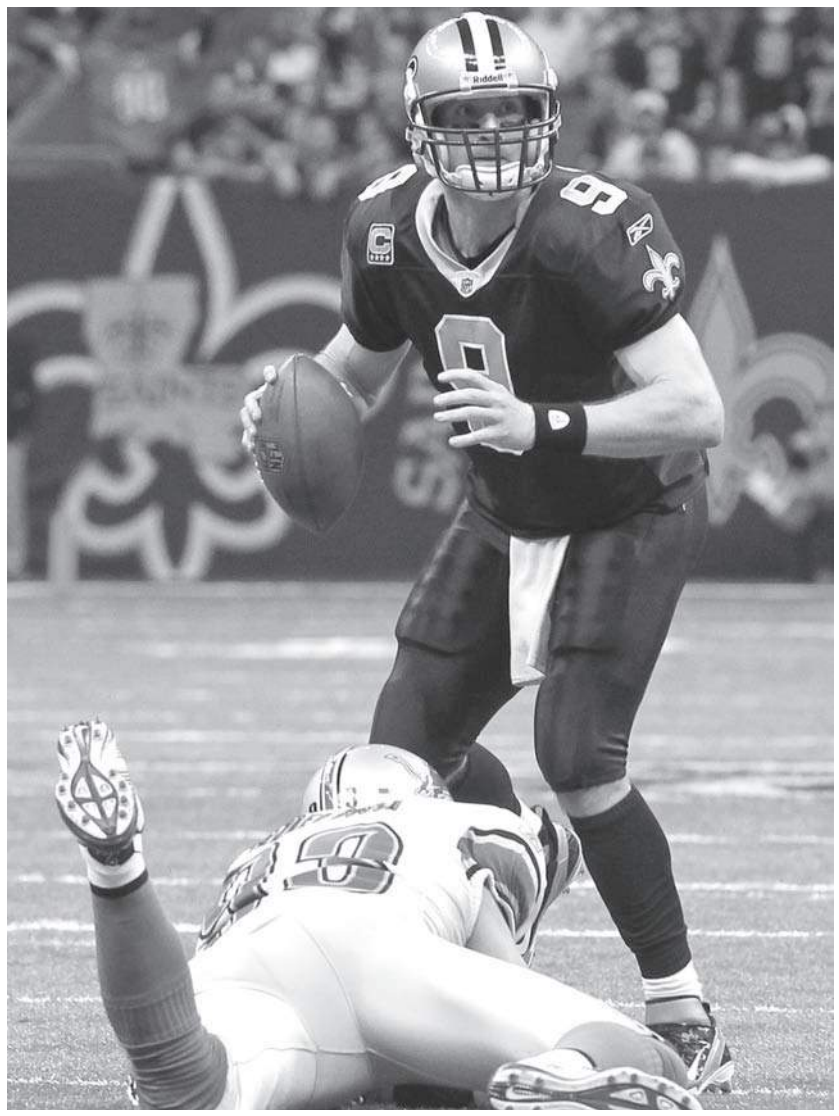
"We did what we had to do to get that first-week bye," defensive end Cory Redding said. "We came out of the back stretch 3-1, and that was our main focus. Guys are fighting on the field with big gashes down their legs and almost bruised ribs, messed up knees and toes and ankles and hands, and yet we still fought our way.

"That was the biggest thing. We got that accomplished. We got control in the AFC North accomplished, and now it's time to rest, recover and get ready for the second season and winning Game 1. That was the mindset for the guys. It was a big accomplishment."

Like the Texans, the Giants are trying to accomplish a difficult feat: winning at Lambeau Field, where the Packers were 8-0, and defeating a team that beat them in early December in the Meadowlands.

New York is banking on a revived defense, especially the pass rush, and an invigorated running game.

"Persistence ... and the ability to ride the ups and the downs and stay together," Giants coach Tom Coughlin credited for his team's recent surge. "The development of the feeling of `team.' The confidence that grows from a little bit of success. The ability to put some of the pieces to the puzzle together that haven't been there, that weren't there, that do breed the confidence."



AP

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) looks for a receiver as Detroit Lions defensive end Kyle Vanden Bosch (93) pursues during the first half of an NFL wild card playoff football game Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012, in New Orleans.

Brady looks to end 3-game playoff slide

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Tom Brady is on his usual late-season roll. He'd just like to stop his recent playoff slide.

The quarterback with tunnel vision, focusing on the next practice and the next game, is on an eight-game winning streak. That may be a better sign of how his next one will go than his three-game postseason losing streak.

A win on Saturday night would send Brady and the New England Patriots to the AFC championship game and end the Tebowmania season of the Denver Broncos.

Preparing for the upcoming game is all Brady cares about.

"I haven't thought about anything about last year or last week," he said before practice this week. "I'm trying to think about today."

Before last week's bye, the Patriots (13-3) scored 49 straight points and beat the Buffalo Bills 49-21. During the winning streak, Brady has thrown for 19 touchdowns and just two interceptions. An acknowledged plodder, he's even run for three touchdowns in his last three games.

In the last four regular-season games over his 10 seasons as a starter, he is 34-6.

Brady's success has made an impression on Tebow.

He can learn, Tebow said, from "being able to watch a quarterback like that—how he handles himself, the emotion that he plays with but at the same time the calmness that he plays with, the accuracy, the leadership, the way he motivates his players, the way he gets in and out of great plays, the way he's able to handle any situation."

Except, lately, the playoffs.

Brady won his first 10 postseason games and three Super Bowls. He was 14-2 before having a drastic reversal with three consecutive losses—17-14 to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl of the 2007 season, 33-14 to the Baltimore Ravens two years ago and 28-21 to the New York Jets last year. Those last two were at home.

How long did it take for him to get over the loss to the Jets?

"I don't know," Brady said. "I don't remember."

Other Patriots haven't forgotten the post-season slide.

"It sits in all of our minds for the guys that have been here and been a part of that," tackle Matt Light said. "You work that much, you put that much time into a season, you have success to a degree during the regular season and then you go out and you can't get it done in the postseason. That's a difficult thing to swallow."

The Broncos (9-8) want to make that even tougher.

They lost their last three regular-season games but still made the playoffs as champions of the weak AFC West.

Then they beat Pittsburgh 29-23 on an 80-yard pass play from Tebow to Demaryius Thomas on the first play of overtime last Sunday. But Steelers quarterback Ben Roethsliberger was limited by a bad ankle and running back Rashard Mendenhall was sidelined with a knee injury.

The Patriots figure to pose a much tougher challenge. That's why they're two-touchdown favorites.

The Broncos, on their home field, already have lost to them this season. Denver rushed for 167 yards in the first quarter, led 16-7, but committed three turnovers in the second and lost 41-23 on Dec. 18.

"We made mistakes. They exposed those mistakes. Obviously, our tackling in space needs to be better," Broncos defensive coordinator Dennis Allen said. "Obviously, we've got to get more pressure on Tom Brady somehow, someway, and affect him more. I think we hit him a couple of times in the pocket, sacked him twice, but we didn't really affect him enough in the pocket, and we've got to find ways to do that."

That's where linebackers Von Miller and Elvis Dumervil come in.

"Those guys are fast and explosive," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "They can go inside, outside, power rush, occasionally drop into coverage, make a lot of plays from behind. They're strong at the point of attack. They're very good, very good."

Against the Steelers, rookie Miller got only his second sack in the five games he's played with a cast to protect a torn ligament on his right thumb. He had 11 1/2 in the regular season and said his thumb is feeling better.

But before he can tackle Brady, he has to get to the quarterback.

"He stays pretty shallow in the pocket," Miller said. "You've just got to be able to beat your guy quickly."

In the regular season, the Broncos did a decent job on stars Wes Welker and Rob Gronkowski, limiting each to four catches. But tight end Aaron Hernandez stepped up with nine receptions for 129 yards and a touchdown.

"They've got a lot of weapons," Dumervil said. "We also feel confident with our guys. We've just got to play sound, play smart and, I think, no blown assignments. Everybody does their job and executes, and it will give us a good chance."

Safety Quinton Carter said the Broncos made many mistakes on their pass coverage assignments.

"There were a lot of big catches and guys wide open with nobody defending them," he said.

Belichick hasn't seen a tight-end combination with such receiving skills very often in his 37 NFL seasons.

"I see it every day in practice," he said.

Now its Denver's turn to face that formidable pair a month after its first encounter.

"They've got tough matchups They're all great players," Broncos coach John Fox said. "Tom's as good as anybody at finding those matchups and it will come down to that again this time, I'm sure."

Brady didn't do enough of that in his last two playoff games.

Two years ago against the Ravens, Brady threw for 154 yards, two touchdowns and three interceptions and was sacked three times.

Last year, the Jets sacked him five times, he threw an interception on his first series and he never got the lead back after New York went ahead 7-3 five minutes into the second quarter.

Light isn't sure how much those two losses hurt the quarterback whose blind side he's protected since 2001.

"I haven't talked with him about it, but he doesn't typically take losing too well," Light said with a grin. "I've noticed that over the years."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	7	3	.700	–
New York	6	5	.545	1 1/2
Boston	4	5	.444	2 1/2
Toronto	4	7	.364	3 1/2
New Jersey	2	9	.182	5 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	8	3	.727	–
Miami	8	3	.727	–
Atlanta	8	4	.667	1/2
Charlotte	2	9	.182	6
Washington	1	9	.100	6 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	10	2	.833	–
Indiana	7	3	.700	2
Cleveland	5	5	.500	4
Milwaukee	4	6	.400	5
Detroit	2	9	.182	7 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	7	4	.636	–
Dallas	6	5	.545	1
Memphis	4	6	.400	2 1/2
Houston	3	7	.300	3 1/2
New Orleans	3	7	.300	3 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	10	2	.833	–
Portland	7	3	.700	2
Denver	7	4	.636	2 1/2
Utah	6	4	.600	3
Minnesota	3	7	.300	6

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	8	4	.667	–
L.A. Clippers	5	3	.625	1
Phoenix	4	6	.400	3
Sacramento	4	7	.364	3 1/2
Golden State	3	7	.300	4

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 111, Charlotte 81
Memphis 94, New York 83
Milwaukee 102, Detroit 93
Cleveland 101, Phoenix 90
Orlando 117, Golden State 109

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	12	134	86	364	30.3
James, MIA	10	106	78	290	29.0
Anthony, NYK	10	88	73	266	26.6
Durant, OKC	12	108	71	308	25.7
Ellis, GOL	8	70	42	191	23.9
Love, MIN	10	73	68	236	23.6
Griffin, LAC	8	76	33	186	23.3
Bargnani, TOR	11	89	56	245	22.3
Aldridge, POR	10	91	39	222	22.2
Rose, CHI	11	77	57	228	20.7
Bosh, MIA	11	84	42	213	19.4
Allen, BOS	8	49	27	152	19.0
Westbrook, OKC	12	88	45	225	18.8
Jefferson, UTA	9	74	20	168	18.7
Nowitzki, DAL	11	74	53	205	18.6
Evans, SAC	11	68	57	198	18.0
Howard, ORL	10	70	40	180	18.0
Anderson, ORL	10	61	23	178	17.8
Jennings, MIL	9	62	22	160	17.8
Gallinari, DEN	11	63	49	189	17.2

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Gortat, PHX	52	84	.619
Hawes, PHL	47	76	.618
Howard, ORL	70	119	.588
Monroe, DET	62	108	.574
James, MIA	106	186	.570
Allen, BOS	49	88	.557
Harrington, DEN	62	112	.554
Horford, ATL	57	103	.553
Gasol, LAL	80	145	.552
Millsap, UTA	64	116	.552

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Love, MIN	10	51	96	147	14.7
Howard, ORL	10	37	107	144	14.4
Cousins, SAC	10	50	60	110	11.0
Gasol, MEM	9	20	77	97	10.8
Griffin, LAC	8	28	58	86	10.8
Lee, GOL	8	26	56	82	10.3
Varejao, CLE	9	40	52	92	10.2
Haslem, MIA	11	30	81	111	10.1
Hibbert, IND	10	30	69	99	9.9
McGee, WAS	10	28	70	98	9.8

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	9	91	10.1
Nash, PHX	9	86	9.6
Lowry, HOU	8	75	9.4
Calderon, TOR	11	99	9.0
Paul, LAC	8	70	8.8
Rose, CHI	11	95	8.6
D. Williams, NJN	10	82	8.2
Rubio, MIN	10	79	7.9
Jack, NOR	9	71	7.9
Ellis, GOL	8	60	7.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tag-Team 8-Ball deadline set this Monday

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Monday, Jan. 16, is the deadline to register for 19th Hole Bar's Islander Tag Team 8-Ball League.

The event starts on Jan. 21 and runs through Feb. 12 at the bar's new location in Puerto Rico, north of Grand Market along Middle Road.

The event is formatted as a best-of-three game series with two-person teams.

Each player will compete in a singles match coupled with a doubles game.

Two pairings will be played every Saturday and Sunday starting at 7:30pm.

The tournament is not open to the advanced-level players in the Saipan Billiards Association's Agingan division.

There is a $20 entrance fee per team and the deadline to register is Monday, Jan. 16.

The event is open to the first eight teams that sign up.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three place finishers based on a predetermined point system.

Formerly known as the USS Peleliu Club, the 19th Hole Bar relocated last fall. They offer darts, billiards, and music entertainment in a refreshing sports bar setting. The establishment recently received a special plaque of appreciation from the SBA at its 2011 Summer/Fall Budweiser Open 8-Ball League awards banquet last Sunday.

For more information, contact Rose Phillips at 788-3913.

CWGA January tourney today

The CNMI Women's Golfers Association is holding its January Ace season opener today at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course.

Show time is set for 11:30am with a 12:30 tee off.

Players are requested to be prompt because of a venue's high occupancy rate. There is expected increase in tourist guests this weekend.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

Its organizational goals consist of promoting civic and community interest in golf; establishing and encouraging competition and good sportsmanship; promoting and providing social functions of its members and families; promoting youth golf activities; and doing all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intentions.

CWGA members also pledge to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude and conduct. Such values were adopted from the USA Junior Golf Association. They include perseverance, sportsmanship, respect, honesty, judgment, responsibility, reliance, courtesy and sincerity.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Women's Golfers Association members are seen here posing for a photo at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. The club will be holding its January ace today at the Kagman venue.

For more information, contact Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, or Bennet Seman at 483-0126. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

AWARDS

From Page 28

thanked all teams for participating in the inaugural league and bowed to host more competitions for the youth this year.

Tan added that although rules of futsal are very much different from the regular soccer being played at the pitch, playing the former still helps develop players' skills, specially in dribbling and passing.

"Players learn techniques they could also apply in soccer pitches, so we will continue to hold futsal leagues, not only for our youth players, but also for the men and women to help develop our players. We are counting on the support of the various football clubs for our upcoming tournaments," Tan said.

PACQUIAO

From Page 28

his three-month prison sentence for domestic violence until June 1, Mayweather has taken the opportunity to call out Pacquiao, his chief rival for the pound-for-pound king title.

While Pacquiao is willing to do battle with Mayweather on any date provided that the pay-per-view purse is divided equally, promoter Bob Arum thumbed down the date and instead proposed late May or June 9.

Arum wants to maximize the financial potential of the megabuck bout projected to enrich each fighter by at least $50 million by holding it in a makeshift arena that could accommodate 45,000. MGM Grand Arena has a maximum capacity of less than 18,000.

Though chances are remote that either side will give in, fight fans remain hopeful that Pacquiao-Mayweather will push through within the year.

With Arum still in Manila to confer with Pacquiao on the eight-division world champion's next opponent, a decision is expected to be reach by Saturday.

By then, Mayweather may no longer need to tweet. The flamboyant American will be taken more seriously if he'll just come up with a fight contract for Pacquiao to sign.

Meanwhile, renowned trainer Freddie Roach took the cudgels for his prized ward in answering Mayweather's tweets.

MHS1

From Page 28

MHS2, 4-1, in Tuesday's season opener, while the Lady Ayuyus of Kagman High School and the Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays settled for a nil draw in Thursday's match.

On Tuesday, MHS1 jumped all over MHS2, 4-0, in the first half and contained their little sisters to a lone goal late in the final period for a solid win.

MHS1's Allodia Lumasag streaked through the MHS2 backfield to give her team a quick 1-0 lead less than two minutes after the kickoff.

MHS2 then was carded for tripping in the goalie box at about the 10-minute mark, and MHS1's Krizzelle Alforez stepped to the line and put the varsity crew up, 2-0.

In the final six minutes of the opening 35-minute half, MHS1's Jeraldine Castillo and Liezel Tiples each found the back of the net to secure a comfortable lead heading into the closing frame.

MHS1 backed off its press after the recess and focused on defense, however MHS2's Gida Ogarro broke loose for a goal with about 10 minutes left in regulation.

In Thursday's match, SSHS came away with the majority of the scoring opportunities, but KHS did a good job as a group clearing out the ball.

SSHS may grow hungrier after its disappointing result, while KHS perhaps took the draw as a moral victory. Either way both teams can use what was taken from the match and carry it with them into their next games.

This season's girls soccer continues Tuesday at 4pm at the Oleai field with MHS2 hosting KHS.

SIS1

From Page 28

With two wins apiece, the SIS Lady Geckos and MHS1 Lady Dolphins are the only undefeated squads left in the six-team field.

In other results, the Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus (1-1) snuck past MHS2 (0-2), while Marianas Baptist Academy (1-1) was awarded a forfeit victory over an absent Saipan Southern High School (0-2) crew.

SIS1 issued Grace Christian Academy (1-1) its first loss on Thursday with a hard-fought sweep, 25-10, 25-23, and 15-8, while MHS1 bested SIS2 in three sets, 25-13, 25-18, and 15-7.

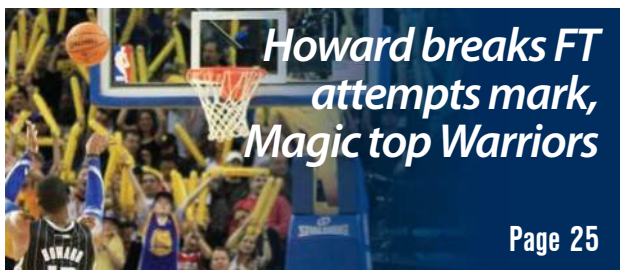
GCA finished third place last year and gave the defending champion Lady Geckos a good run for their money in the second set. SIS1 dominated the field last year, and although they have a number of returning seniors, their competition overall looks to be much improved.

As for MHS1, the Lady Dolphins drew a lighter matchup and took on SIS' younger up-and-coming prospects, but still sent a message to the remaining contenders.

Meanwhile, KHS grinded out a nice comeback over MHS2. KHS eked out the opening set, 25-23, but MHS2 answered in the second set, 25-19, to force the match into a tie-breaker. MHS2 held a 14-11 game-point advantage, but KHS roared back at crunch time and stole the game, 18-16, in a bonus play.

By rule, game point of the third face off is set at 15 with the cap limit removed, and a team has to win by two points. Game point for the two opening sets is placed at 25 with a cap limit of 30.

The season continues on Tuesday at the MHS Gym at 4pm with MBA hosting GCA on the north court and KHS facing MHS1 at the south side. Then at 5pm SSHS calls over SIS2 on the north square with SIS1 against MHS2 on the south court.



Howard breaks FT attempts mark, Magic top Warriors

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Classic playoff matchup: Saints vs. 49ers

Page 26

3 youth striker get Golden Boot awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three players were recognized in the awards ceremony for the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Youth Futsal League after scoring the most goals in the inaugural competition.

Receiving the Golden Boot awards last Monday at the lobby of the Saipan Grand Hotel were Astig Futsal's Kyla Ito and Tanapon Unsa and the Thundercats' Brian Lee. Ito collected 17 goals to top the girls U17 division, while Unsa led in the boys U15 division with his 20 goals. Lee played in the boys U18 and earned a field's best eight goals. Each awardee received medals from league coordinators Angie Ito and Jershwin Angeles.

Ito and Angeles also handed out fair play awards to boys U15's Shirley's Boys, girls U17's Go Green Team, and boys U18's Mean Machine. Then the awards night was capped with the presentation of perpetual trophies to the champions of the three age group.

Members of IT&E were first to go up the stage to receive their U18 trophy, followed by the Astig Futsal's girls U17 and boys U15 teams. IT&E topped the boys U18 after posting a 5-1-0 win-draw-loss record in the three round-robin contest, besting the Thundercats and Mean Machine. Astig Futsal's teams in the boys U15 and U17 were also undefeated. The Astig Futsal female strikers swept Ayuyu and Go Green Team in three rounds, while the former's male players prevailed over Shirley's Boys, Konflikt, and We-D-Fly twice.

Meanwhile, SSS president Jerry Tan was also present at the awards ceremony and delivered the event's opening remarks. He

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Ito Lee Unsa

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan International School's Amber Roberts fires a spike in Thursday's MISO girls volleyball game against Grace Christian Academy held at the Marians High School Gymnasium.

SIS1, MHS1 tied for 1st in girls volleyball

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The varsity squads of Saipan International School and Marianas High School are the frontrunners in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization MISO girls volleyball standings after the conclusion of Thursday's matches held at the MHS Gymnasium.

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Marianas High School junior varsity player, in yellow, tries to maneuver around a MHS varsity defender at midfield in Tuesday's MISO girls soccer season opener held at the Oleai Sports Complex field.

MHS1 *beats* MHS2 *in girls soccer season opener*

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Marianas High School Lady Dolphins varsity squad was the first team to break into the win column as the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls soccer season opened this week at the Oleai Sports Complex field.

The varsity Dolphins MHS1 defeated its junior squad

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Pacquiao: All fight needs is 50-50 split

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Let's split the revenues and the fight is on.

This was Manny Pacquiao's curt reply to Floyd Mayweather Jr's taunts on Twitter.

"If he agrees to a 50-50 (sharing), then the fight will push through," Pacquiao said in Filipino in a GMA-7 interview Thursday.

Pacquiao was replying to Mayweather's tweets, daring the Filipino eight-division world champion for a megabuck fight on May 5.

On his first tweet Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila), the flamboyant American even had the temerity to call the Sarangani representative a punk.

On Wednesday, Mayweather tweeted again.

"I'm ready to put my belt (World Boxing Council welterweight crown) up. What about you Manny Pacquiao? Let's make history."

Given a reprieve on serving

See PACQUIAO on Page 27

AP

In this Nov. 12, 2011, file photo, Mexico's Juan Manuel Marquez, left, wearing the emblem of the opposition Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI, on his boxer's trunks is hit by Manny Pacquiao, right, of the Philippines, during a WBO welterweight title fight in Las Vegas.